RP, US officials deny Green Berets to fight Abus

Story on PAGE A2

In today's issue

- Ladies who lunch with Cory on her 70th birthday
LIFESTYLE / C1

- Kris wears her heart on her sleeve
SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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JOB *Market*
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Pope pleads for peace

GMA tries to ease war jitters

POPE John Paul II yesterday called for an intensification of peace efforts in a world moving toward a possible war in Iraq.

"Efforts must be multiplied," the Pope said. "One cannot stand still before terrorist attacks, or in front of the threats that appear on the horizon. One must not resign oneself, almost as if the war were inevitable," he told the 35th anniversary gathering in the Vatican of the Sant'Egidio Community, a Catholic group that has worked to resolve conflicts around the world.

The Vatican has been outspoken in opposition to a new Iraq conflict, with top officials saying a preventive strike would have no legal or moral justification.

The Roman Catholic pontiff himself has previously said war against Iraq would be a "defeat for humanity."

John Paul reiterated his concerns yesterday saying the world is passing through a moment "marked by tensions and the winds of war."

For this reason, it has become ever more urgent to announce the "Gospel of peace" to a humanity greatly tested by hatred and violence," he said.

The Pope plans to meet with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Friday, the day weapons inspectors are to deliver progress reports to the UN Security Council. Aziz asked for the meeting and the Pope agreed.

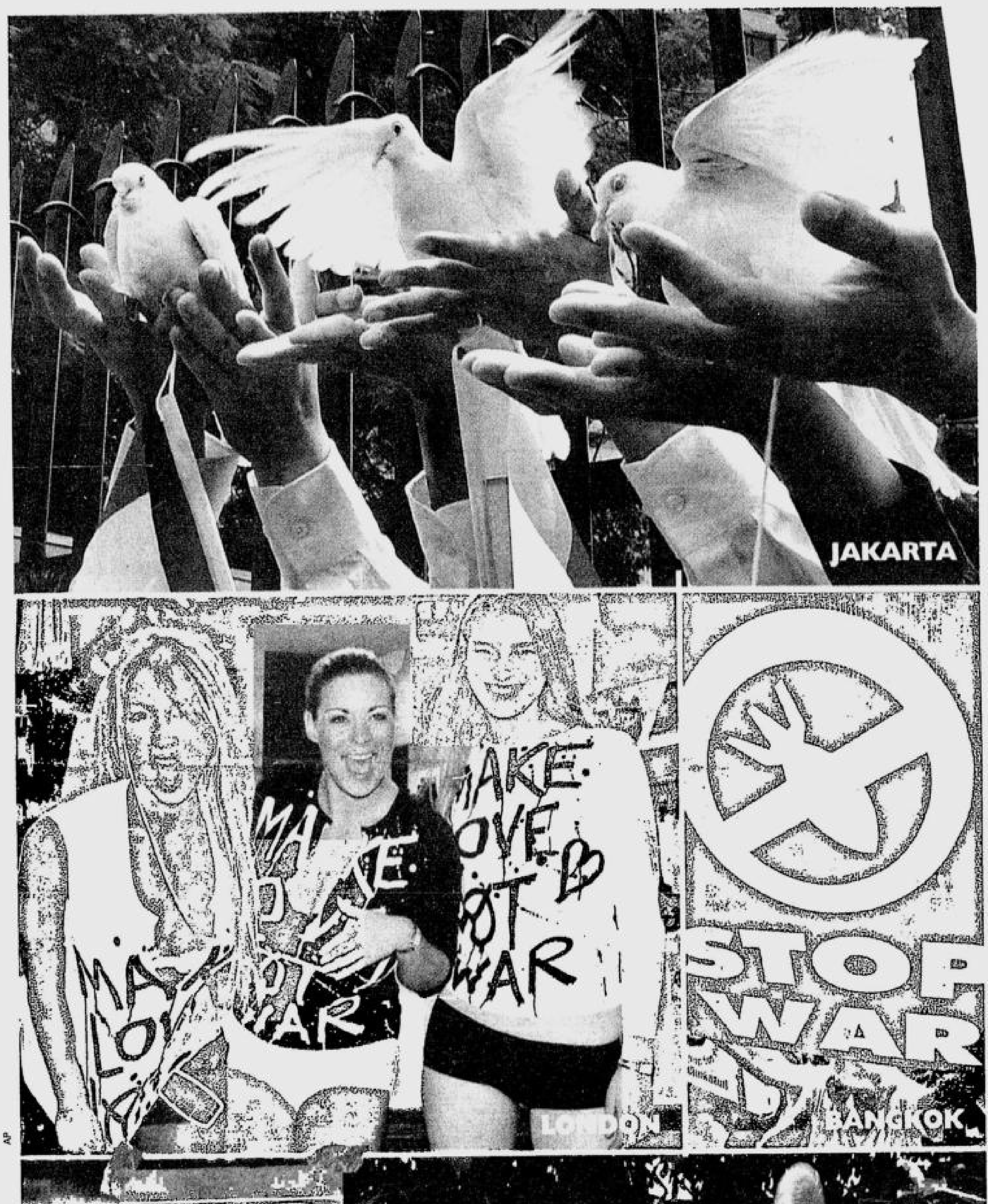
In Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo tried to ease apprehensions triggered by the rising prices of oil and basic commodities as well as the peso's steep fall against the dollar.

In a message aired over radio at 5 p.m. yesterday, she also warned traders and dollar speculators against taking advantage of the escalating jitters over the looming US attack on Iraq.

But except for what she termed as "events in the Middle East and their effects on our daily life," she made no mention of the US-Iraq crisis toward which, in a succession of speeches the past few days, she had displayed a hawkish stance that drew much criticism.

The INQUIRER learned earlier yesterday that the President had initially decided to dispense with

POPE/ A16



AP
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EDWIN BACASMAS

WAGING PEACE WORLDWIDE
Models in a lingerie shop in London, Muslims in Bangkok, Indonesians in Jakarta, health workers in Manila have one thing in common with the Iraqis: They want peace, not war. Iraqi soldier stands by anti-war message posted at the UN office in Baghdad.

Americans to teach Muslims English

By Carlito Pablo *in Manila,*
Edwin O. Fernandez
and Allan A. Nawal
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE NEW Thomasites are coming, and they're headed for Islamic schools in Mindanao.

The US government is planning to deploy volunteer American teachers to teach English to students in madaris (singular: madrasah) in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The first American teachers arrived in the Philippines aboard the USS Thomas during the American colonial period.

Not only that, the volunteers will also teach "democratic values and the rule of law as part of the US and Philippine fight against terrorism," said Mona Valisno, presidential assistant for education.

Valisno, who made the announcement the other day, had recently met with US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone about this initiative. She did not say how the Americans will be protected from possible attacks by Muslim armed groups.

"Sending volunteer American English teachers will greatly benefit Muslim students in the thou-

AMERICANS/ A17

'Terror' RP's top school principal

By Volt Contreras

A TEACHER achieved in two years what lawmakers with pork barrel funds often take a lifetime to do: build new, decent classrooms.

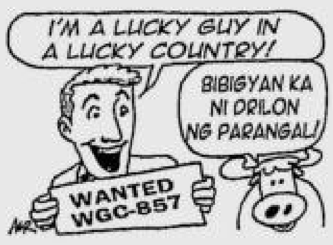
In 1978, on her first day as a teacher in a public high school in Jaro, Leyte, Rebecca Lucero Ragrag already considered quitting at the sight of her dilapidated classroom and her unruly, intimidating students.

The class toughie, the son of a former "Huk" cadre, was lying on a table, a red handkerchief tied around his head.

The classroom, like the rest in the Granja-Kalinawan National High School, was one woeful affair: the nipa roofing leaked and the walls of bamboo and coconut lumber constantly needed repair after a strong typhoon. The dirt floor was damp when it rained.

But 18 years later, Ragrag, as the school principal, vastly improved not only the school's depressing environs but also the morale of students and teachers.

TERROR/ A16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Aussie awed by honest taxi driver

By Mathew Murphy

I HAD only been in the Philippines a week when I left my bag in a taxi and found myself facing every foreigner's worst nightmare—a lost passport!

It was Tuesday, Jan. 21, my first day at the Senate as an exchange journalism graduate. I was busy concentrating on getting there on time and making

AUSSIE/ A16

Unshod, this priest bares his sole in public

By Joya Santos-Doctor
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BONTOC, Mt. Province—Will you dare to, so to speak, bare your sole in public?

Will you stroll unshod in Makati's business district or in downtown Baguio, and will you enjoy thick mud oozing between your toes at the wet market in Iloilo?

Will you speak before a crowd without your Bally or Florsheim or Marikina shoes, or mingle thus with other people in their Sunday best?

Edward Sumedka, an Anglican priest in Bontoc, has done all that—and not regretted a minute.

For his unconventional ways he has become known as "Father Sakasaka," after the local term for "barefoot."

"I am enjoying the feel of the soil, the grass, the pebbles," he said, adding that cement was not much fun and that he avoided it whenever he could.

Since 1994 Sumedka has gone barefoot at every function, including conventions and seminars in Metro Manila and elsewhere in the country.

"I even drive barefoot, and have not been caught for it," he said while showing off his toughened soles. The priest, who is

UNSHOD/ A16

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Central Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/09/03

Second FrontPage

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Solon seeks return of RP to IMF program

By Gil Cabacungan and Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT should go back to International Monetary Fund economic supervision as a way of providing a quick lift to sagging foreign investor confidence and stop the peso's precipitous slide, Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda said.

A return to an IMF-supervised economic program and availment of the multilateral funding agency's emergency loan facility would immediately restore confidence in the Philippines among investors and creditors fearful that the runaway budget deficit, mounting foreign debt and dwindling foreign reserves could push the country into an Argentina-like economic crisis, Salceda said in an interview.

The Philippines graduated from almost four decades of strict IMF supervision in 1998 after a brief period of economic turnaround during the Ramos administration. In September it will complete a two-year post-loan arrangement with the fund.

Economists, however, do not believe that there was a need for the Philippines to rush back under the wing of the IMF at this time, despite the prevailing geopolitical uncertainties.

Former economic planning secretary Cayetano Paderanga Jr. said there was "no overriding need" for the country to seek another IMF funding program just to gain a "seal of good housekeeping."

"I don't see any need. Our international reserves are healthy, our current account, even after the (statistical) corrections still look healthy," said Paderanga, a former Monetary Board member and currently the alternate director at the Asian Development Bank and private sector representative on the Philippine Stock Exchange Board.

Paderanga also cited the 4.6 gross domestic product growth posted by the country in 2002, its strongest performance since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

"We can always go back (to the IMF) in cases of emergency," he said, adding that proponents of such a move were probably just worried about the uncertainties from an impending war in the Middle East.

Economist Enrique Claudio of Unicapital Securities said it would not send a good signal if the Philippines were to seek another IMF program after exiting from the fund's supervision.

"Once you get independence, you don't give it back unless you really not capable of handling it," Claudio said.

Salceda said the alarm bells on an imminent peso devaluation have been ringing since the peso breached its post-1997 financial crisis level of P53.50 to the United States dollar.

This makes the peso the only Asian currency to depreciate against the dollar—it is down 16 percent from year-ago levels—in the past 12 months.

If the government does not do something drastic soon and merely depends on the central bank's futile moves to defend the peso, a slide to the P60-to-$1 level was inevitable, warned the congressman, a former stockbroker.

Salceda said the Philippines' debt problem has been aggravated by fears of an imminent war in Iraq that could spike international oil prices; displace overseas Filipino workers, and increase risk premium; sanctions from the Financial Action Task Force anti-money laundering watchdog; threats of a credit downgrade because of the deteriorating fiscal position; and uncertainties arising from statistical anomalies in the country's trade statistics.

Aside from going back to IMF tutelage, Salceda said the government should declare a state of "unmanageable budget deficit" and put in place a substantive fiscal program of mandatory reserves across-the-board.

In a state of unmanageable deficit, the government in effect declares a budget crisis and undertakes to pay only statutory obligations like salaries of government employees.

'Pass dirty-money law or face OFWs' wrath'

SENATORS and congressmen responsible for the failure of Congress to pass amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) will "definitely feel the wrath" of overseas Filipino workers and their families and will be booted out of office.

The warning aired by OFW organizations as the Feb. 12 deadline for the passage of the amendments, set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), drew closer. Failure to meet the deadline will mean sanctions for the Philippines that will adversely affect foreign exchange remittances by the OFWs.

"We are worried that it would be the OFWs' families who would be penalized should Congress fail to enact the AMLA amendments," said engineer Nelson Ramirez of United Filipino Seafarers.

"Is this their way of treating the OFWs, whom they call the Bagong Bayani?" Ramirez added.

The OFWs, at the same time, cautioned the legislators against watering down the provisions of the amendment bills, which are necessary to convince the international banking community of the country's resolve to crack the whip on money launderers.

They cited the 11 senators who voted in favor of the P2 million threshold for suspicious transactions, "which is way above the P500,000 threshold amount recommended to meet the international standards against money laundering.

These are Senators Edgardo Angara, Loren Legarda, Noli de Castro, Joker Arroyo, John Osmeña, Manuel Villar, Tito Sotto, Aquilino Pimentel. Rodolfo Biazon, Luisa Ejercito and Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

The OFW groups have expressed apprehension that remittances to their families would be delayed or cost a lot more to process should the Philippines fail to conform with the standards set by the FATF.

Green Berets vs Abu? No such thing, execs say

PHILIPPINE and United States security officials denied yesterday that US troops might be allowed to fight alongside Filipino soldiers against the Abu Sayyaf bandit gang.

The US-based Congress Daily news service reported on Feb. 4 that President George W. Bush was on the verge of authorizing combat by some of the US Green Berets arriving in the Philippines to train Filipino troops to fight the kidnap gang.

That would be a major escalation of the US involvement in the Philippines, where six months of joint counter-terrorism exercises with US troops last year raised the ire of leftist protesters despite a ban on combat by the US soldiers.

"There is no such thing," said National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, explaining that the framework of the military cooperation between the two allies remained the same, that is, it would focus mainly on training.

"They wouldn't be allowed to fight or join combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo," said Southern Command spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero.

"The US soldiers are here to train the Filipino troops," he said.

US military spokesperson Capt. Steve Wollman also said US soldiers would not join combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

"We are here to train and assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Wollman told reporters in Zamboanga City.

Asked about the report, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes recalled that the so-called terms of reference last year only allowed US troops to venture into combat zones on Basilan island to observe Filipino troops hunting the Abu Sayyaf. They only were authorized to shoot in self-defense to comply with constitutional limits on foreign combat troops.

"Any cooperation we will have will have to be in accordance with the Constitution," Reyes told reporters.

There were reports last year that Bush wanted US troops to battle the Abu Sayyaf directly, but that President Macapagal-Arroyo, under fire for her perceived pro-US leanings, declined and instead allowed training only.

The new round of training starts later this month with about 200 to 300 US service members and six light infantry battalions of Philippine Army troops and Marines in Zamboanga.

Air Force pilots also will undergo training in night operations at an air base on Mactan island in Cebu, officials said.

Golez referred back to a statement from the Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Commander Jeff Davis where the Pentagon official was quoted as saying that no decision had been made to conduct combat missions beyond the security assistance program and the military-to-military training exercises.

"That is the official statement of the Pentagon and that is our official statement," Golez, speaking in Filipino, said.

"What is allowed under the Balikatan terms of reference is that (US soldiers can engage in combat) only to defend themselves... that is what we call rules of engagement," he added. *Martin P. Marfil and AP*

Ilocos couple hacked dead

STO. DOMINGO, Ilocos Sur—A couple here was hacked to death while three others, including one of the suspects, were wounded after two men in Barangay Lao-ingen attacked their neighbors on Friday night.

Police identified the fatalities as Eduardo Cobleta, 72, and his wife Beatris, 68. Their son, Jaime, 32, and Beatris' sister, Gregoria Tibuc, 63, suffered hack wounds from the attack.

Police said one of the suspects, Ricardo Molina, suffered two gunshot wounds and was taken to the Gabriela Silang General Hospital in Vigan City.

The victims and suspects Molina and his brother, Simeon, are neighbors in Lao-ingen, about 7 km from the town proper. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Germans unfazed by Piatco dispute, airport chief says

GERMANS continue to pour investments into the Philippines despite the controversy surrounding the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) deal, according to Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) General Manager Edgardo Manda.

Manda yesterday contradicted statements earlier made by Wilhelm Bender, chief executive officer of Fraport, Piatco's biggest foreign partner in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) 3 project.

Bender told Reuters on Tuesday that German traders' interest in doing business with the Philippines had waned as a result of the disagreements over the $525-million state-of-the-art terminal, in which Fraport had invested $383 million.

In 1997, Piatco was awarded the contract to build and operate Naia 3, but alleged anomalies surrounding the contract prevented the terminal's scheduled opening last December.

Fraport offered to sell its stake to the Philippine government for $400 million, but negotiations have dragged to this day. The firm is said to be under pressure to straighten out the problem before it closed its 2002 books in the next four weeks.

Bender vowed to seek World Bank arbitration, "to show that the Philippines is not a secure place to invest."

In his own statement, Manda said Bender's charges were "unfortunate, considering his intimate knowledge of the issues." He said the country's investment prospects involving Germany remained "upbeat."

Manda cited Lufthansa, a major German aviation company which, he said, was set to "substantially expand" operations in the Philippines. He said he understood Fraport's predicament, but maintained that the firm should direct all its demands at Piatco.

Whether or not the Naia 3 project would be eventually awarded to Piatco, was up to the Supreme Court, Manda added, now that both the Executive and Legislative branches of government had declared the 1997 contract null and void.

Perfecto Yasay, chair of the MIAA-Naia Association of Service Operators earlier estimated that the cash-strapped Piatco needed another $170 million to finish Naia 3.

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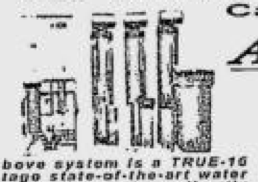

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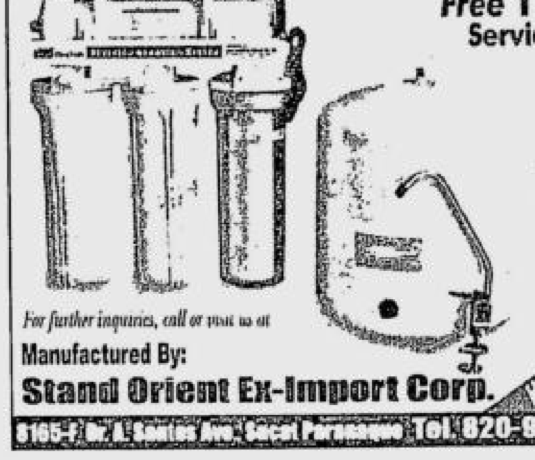

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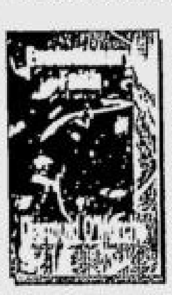

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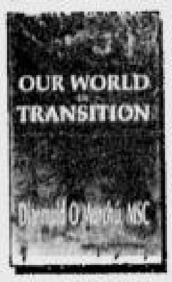

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Bodies of 7 soldiers slain in NPA ambush retrieved

By Martin P. Marfil *in Manila*
Ayan C. Mellejor and Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE BODIES of seven soldiers killed in an encounter with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Talaingod, Davao del Norte were retrieved late Friday afternoon.

Rescued were six wounded soldiers, who are now undergoing treatment at the army hospital in Davao City.

Killed in the three-hour clash in Sitio Basak, Barangay Sto. Nino, were Sgt. Rico Urdaneza and Pfcs. Almar Ludoc, Jauro Maglahos, Rey Jun Nala, Dindo Quebro, Busog Masaluon and Ronny Benesad. The Associated Press, quoting military officials, said the communists had exploded a land mine that caused the deaths and injuries.

The wounded soldiers reportedly walked to safety for about 16 hours.

Col. Pedro Curva, commander of the Army's 701st Infantry Brigade, said the casualties were part of a combat patrol of less than 40 soldiers from the 72nd infantry battalion under Lt. Col. Felipe Agujob.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said the soldiers were on patrol Friday morning at 9, when they encountered some 80 rebels led by Leonardo Pitao alias Kumander Parago, leader of the Pulang Bagani Command under the NPA's Main Regional Guerrilla Unit (MRGU).

According to Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, chief of the 4th Infantry Division, bad weather prevented air reinforcement from immediately reaching the ground forces. Maj. Agani Adriatico, 701st spokesman, said two helicopters sent to the area had lost contact with the unit, and then failed to land due to the thick vegetation.

Curva added that the NPA eventually withdrew, and were believed to have suffered an undetermined number of casualties.

"This was a legitimate encounter," said Col. Danilo Lucero, Southern Command spokesperson, when asked if the soldiers had been ambushed. "It was part of a bigger AFP operation." He said two additional battalions were being sent to the area, to conduct pursuit operations,

A report reaching the INQUIRER said the military lost at least four M203 grenade launchers, an M-60 light machine gun and a radio base.

Talaingod—about 950 kilometers southeast of Manila—is populated by the Ata-Manobo tribe which the army has long linked to communist rebels.

Pitao was the leader of the NPA's Medardo Arce Command, which held captive from February to April 1999 Brig. Gen. Victor Obillo, commander of the 55th Engineering Brigade, and his aide, Capt. Eduardo Montealto. Captured after the incident, Pitao was sent back to Davao to face charges.

With reports from AP and AFP

Recapture of suspect in scribe's slay urged

AN INTERNATIONAL press freedom group yesterday urged authorities to recapture the escaped chief suspect in the murder of a Filipino journalist and to arrest the alleged mastermind.

In a letter to Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina, the Paris-based group Reporters Without Borders also expressed fears for the safety of the family of journalist Edgar Damalerio and witnesses to his murder on May 13 last year.

It appealed to Lina to see that police and the army recapture the suspect, Guillermo Wapile, a former policeman, who escaped Feb. 1 from the police camp in Pagadian City.

The group said since Wapile's escape, Damalerio's widow Gemma and two witnesses who gave testimony against Wapile have received death threats.

Damalerio's widow also fears that Wapile will not be recaptured before Monday's expiration of the warrant for his arrest.

Damalerio, a broadcaster for public radio DXKP and editor of the local Zamboanga Scribe, commented on corruption and other local issues. He was riding in a jeep with two colleagues when Wapile, riding a motorbike with another man, allegedly pulled alongside and opened fire, a witness said. *AP*

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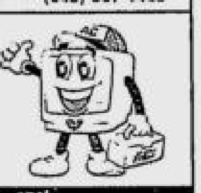
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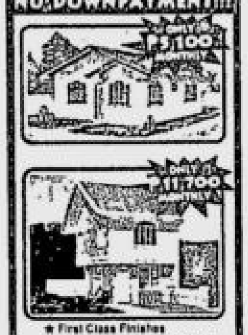
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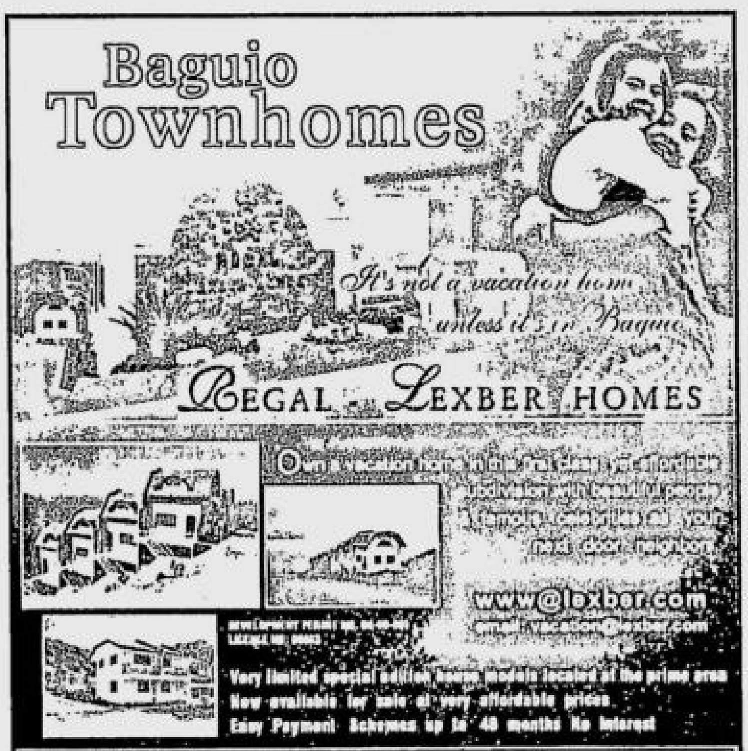
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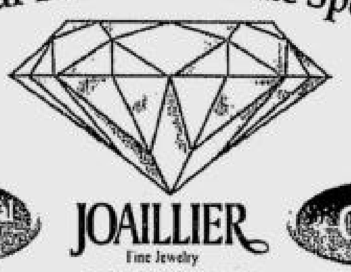
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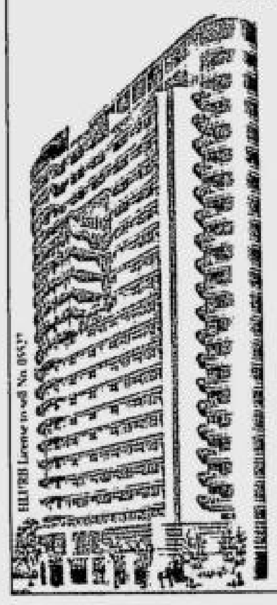
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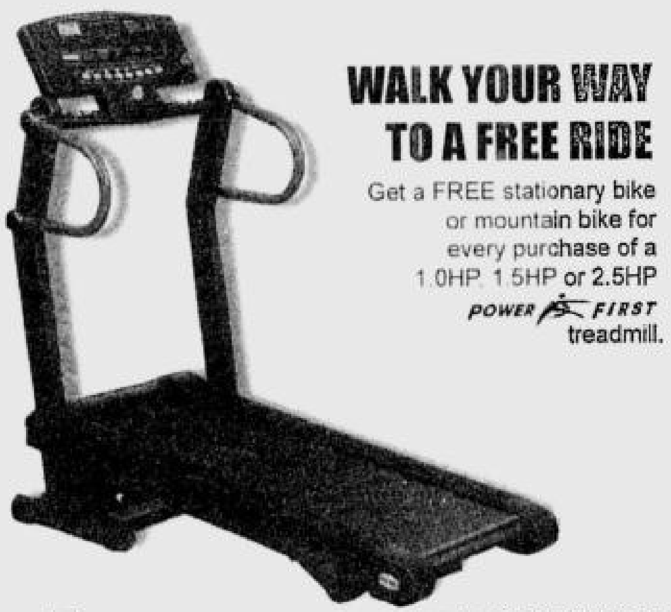
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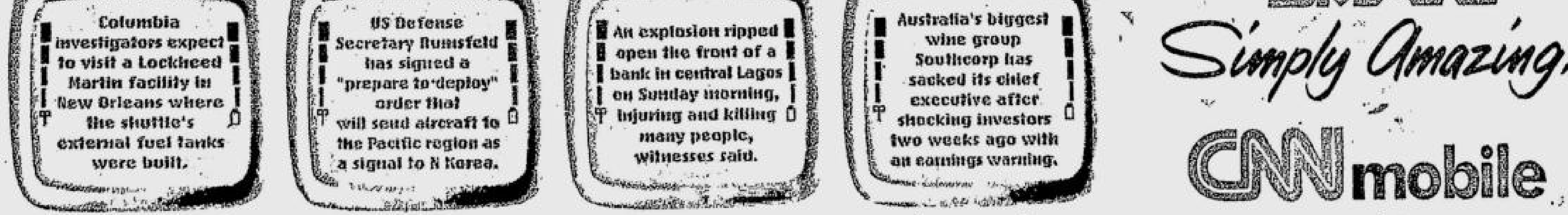
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US Defense Secretary Rumsfeld has signed a "prepare to deploy" order that will send aircraft to the Pacific region as a signal to N Korea.
An explosion ripped open the front of a bank in central Lagos on Sunday morning, injuring and killing many people, witnesses said.
Australia's biggest wine group Southcorp has sacked its chief executive after shocking investors two weeks ago with an earnings warning.
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'TRIED AND TESTED FORMULA'

Gang behind Ledesma kids' kidnap broken, says PNP

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The kidnap gang involved in the abduction of the children of Negros Rep. Julio Ledesma and the 13-year-old son of a prominent Bacolod businessman, has been "neutralized" with the arrest of several members, Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said on Friday.

The PNP chief said the abductors of Ledesma's children—Julio Carlos, 5, and Cristina Julieta, 10—and Jefferson Tan, son of trader Joseph Tan, belonged to the same gang, which was among five kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) groups disabled last year by the police.

Ledesma's children were kidnapped on Sept. 13 last year in San Juan, Metro Manila, and Tan was snatched in Mandurriao, Iloilo City, a month later.

The elder Tan owns major merchandising companies in Bacolod, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Palawan and Manila.

Arrested and charged in court with with Tan's kidnap, Ebdane said, were Agapito Estologa of Candoni, Negros Occidental, and Alfonso Silao, Pedro Caunday, Ernie Castillo and Alex Descaro. The last four are Iloilo residents.

Ebdane did not say if any one of the five was involved in the Ledesma case.

The police also insisted that no ransom was paid in either case, despite persistent talk that money had changed hands in both incidents.

Ledesma's children, abducted while on their way to school, were released unharmed at the Makati Medical Center on Sept. 17, or four days later.

Jefferson was was kept hostage for eight days, and then released on Oct. 23, with his family reportedly paying P3 million in ransom.

The police attributed the victims' release to the application of a "tried and tested formula," which they refused to elaborate on.

Of the original 21 KFR syndicates, Ebdane said, two more—the Bocala and Fajardo groups—have remained active, and the rest have stopped operations.

From this city where he met with Negros Occidental policemen at Camp Alfredo Montelibano Sr., Ebdane proceeded to Iloilo yesterday, as guest of honor and speaker at the 12th PNP founding anniversary celebration.

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Feb 15-16	Laundry Soap and Detergents (*in cooperation with ITDI/DOST*)
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Feb. 15-16	Accounting and Record Keeping for Small Businesses
Feb 15-16	Organizing Party Funfare as a Business (with Balloon Decors)
Feb. 17	Setting up a Travel Agency
Feb. 17-18	Wood Framing
Feb. 17-18	Setting up a Hardware and Construction Supply Store
Feb. 17-20	Operating a Retail Store Business (*with field trip*)
Feb. 18-19	Basic Reservation and Ticketing for Travel Agencies (*with field trip*)
Feb. 19-21	Curtains and Cushions (on site)
Feb. 20-21	Aromatic and Decorative Candle Making (*in cooperation with ITDI/DOST*)
Feb. 20-21	Traditional Thai Massage
Feb. 21-22	Meat Shop Management and Meat Cutting (*with field trip*)
Feb. 22-23	Jewelry Appraisal and Pawnshop Operation
Feb. 22-23	Advanced Course on Janitorial Services (NEW)
Feb. 22-24	Fresh Flower Arrangement and Flower Shop Operation and Management (*with field trip*)
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Feb. 19-20	Intensive Culture of Tilapia in Tanks (*with field trip*)
Feb. 19-21	Animal Feed Formulation and Production (*with field trip*)
Feb. 20-22	Orchid Growing and Nursery Management (*with field trip*)
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WAKAOJI KIDNAPPING

'If Reds say they did it, why are we in jail?'

By Alcuin Papa

THE RECENT revelation by New People's Army spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal that it was the communists who had kidnapped Japanese executive Noboyuki Wakaoji in 1986 may have settled the question of who did it.

But for Ireneo Fajardo, the man who was sentenced by a Laguna court for the kidnapping, the fight to regain his freedom has just begun.

When the INQUIRER interviewed him Friday at the maximum security prison in Muntinlupa, Fajardo had just submitted his papers to Bureau of Corrections Director Ricardo Macala asking for a conditional pardon.

Fajardo and his brother Ruperto were convicted by Laguna Trial Court Judge Justo Sultan Fajardo on Jan. 10, 1992 of abducting Wakaoji, Manila branch manager of Mitsui and Co. in Canlubang.

Fajardo pleaded innocent at his trial and he continues to stand by his plea today.

"We did not have anything to do with the kidnapping," he stated matter-of-factly in Filipino.

He pointed out the communist insurgents had owned up to the kidnapping even before Rosal made his recent statement.

"In 1991, suspects from the NPA were arrested who admitted they were responsible for the kidnapping," he said.

Intelligence reports revealed the kidnapping was perpetrated by the NPA in cooperation with the Japanese Red Army.

Rosal said recently former NPA chief Romulo Kintanar was killed for his "crimes against the movement," which included the Wakaoji kidnapping.

Despite the turmoil in his life, Fajardo said he has tried to live tranquilly. Once a week, his wife and four children visit him, a constant source of comfort for him, he said. Fajardo has also been active in the prison's church ministry.

"It has been very hard living behind bars knowing you have not committed any crime," he said, crying.

Fajardo is 57 and has heart problems. His eyesight is starting to fail.

"My fate was all I ever thought about, and more. I have grown old, weary and tired in here while the real perpetrators are free. If you were in my shoes, how would you feel?" he said.

Before going to jail, Fajardo was a field supervisor of a construction firm and a bodyguard of Calamba Mayor Jose Miguel Yulo.

Despite his connections, he was still convicted. "I don't think I got even a little justice. But it is useless to blame anyone now."

When asked for his reaction to Rosal's statements, Fajardo said: "We had been saying it all this time. But now, (with Rosal's admission) it has to be real."

Fajardo said though that he would rather pin his hopes on getting a pardon than having his case reopened.

"I have no problem with a reinvestigation but it might take a long time with the outcome uncertain. I have lost hope in our justice system but I would hope there is a way to get out of jail at the soonest possible time," he said.

He said no one had been able to point to him as one of Wakaoji's kidnappers. But reports said Wakaoji's driver had positively identified Fajardo.

Police sources said the Fajardos were part of a criminal gang operating in Laguna, a charge that Fajardo vehemently denied.

"I was never part of any gang. The authorities have arrested rebels who said they took part in the kidnapping. But I don't know why I am still behind bars. I am not even an NPA. I don't know why this is happening to us," he said.

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Ka Roger says Kintanar was given a chance

LUCENA CITY—In an apparent move to diffuse the heat generated by their killing of Romulo Kintanar, the Communist Party of the Philippines yesterday claimed that the slain former New People's Army chief was given a chance to "show genuine remorse and willingness to make amends for the wrongs that the he had committed."

However, according to Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP spokesperson, "when Kintanar's case was reviewed and finally decided by the special people's court in 2002, new evidence presented showed that Kintanar persisted and became further engrossed in his criminal and counter-revolutionary activities.

This, Rosal said, was "especially after his betrayal of the party and revolutionary movement turned overt."

Kintanar was assassinated on Jan. 23 at a Japanese restaurant inside the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. A few days later, the CPP, through Rosal, claimed responsibility for the killing, saying Kintanar was found guilty by a revolutionary court of crimes against the people.

Rosal said the CPP and the revolutionary movement uphold the policy of giving consideration and granting amnesty to individuals who are able to show genuine remorse and willingness to make adequate amends despite the seriousness of the errors they have committed.

"This policy applies to all those who have betrayed the party and revolutionary movement. And this also applied to Kintanar," he added.

Rosal also assailed another former NPA leader, RPA-ABB chieftain Nilo de la Cruz, for "hypocrisy" in including Filemon "Popoy" Lagman's killing as among those the NPA had owned.

He reiterated that every time the NPA administers the maximum penalty, it does not fail to explain to the people the just and revolutionary basis for such actions.

"In the case of Lagman, the CPP-NPA has categorically denied killing him despite having had serious ideological, political and organizational differences with him." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DEFINITELY RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

Pimentel throws hat into the ring

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Cynthia D. Balana

CEBU CITY—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has thrown his hat into the ring, declaring yesterday his intention to run for president in 2004.

Interviewed in dyLA radio here, Pimentel said he would definitely run in 2004 and had in fact already started organizing his forces.

There are now two declared contenders for the presidency from the opposition, with Sen. Panfilo Lacson earlier making known his own intentions known.

Lacson's bid was recently boosted by a statement from jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada that Lacson would get the backing of his Partido ng Masang Pilipino if movie star Fernando Poe Jr., Estrada's first choice, cannot be persuaded to run.

Because he was not included in the list of contenders considered by Estrada's party, Pimentel said he would run under the banner of his own party, PDP-Laban.

But because his party was too small, Pimentel said he was scouting for a coalition partner.

"I won't just rely on our party. It's not politically wise to do that," he said, adding that he was open to the idea of running under Estrada's PMP.

Also looking to coalescing with other political parties in a bid to choose the most qualified standard bearer for 2004 is the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, Laban president, said the party's executive council last week agreed to seek an alliance with other political groups which have compatible goals with Laban.

Among these political parties are the Nacionalist People's Coalition, the PMP and the PDP-Laban.

"We must rally behind a common candidate and the opposition must choose the best possible candidate, taking into consideration his public record, leadership qualities and capability to transform the nation toward economic progress," Angara said.

Angara said that Laban had yet to choose a standard bearer, adding there was a process in selecting one.

"In coalescing with other parties, we have a wider berth and the process becomes highly selective," he said.

Angara said the biggest challenge faced by a new aspirant to the top leadership was the people's lack of confidence in their leaders.

"The public is skeptical, the investors are worried, and the tourists are afraid. This is our sad situation today. We must offer the people a leader who can command trust and confidence, who can bring back hope to those who have lost it," he said.

The administration Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD) earlier floated several names as possible presidential candidates, including Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco.

Former Education Secretary Raul Roco, whose party is in the ruling People Power Coalition, is also eyeing a run for the presidency.

With a possible four-cornered presidential fight, Pimentel said he could not be considered a "third force."

DATO ARROYO

GMA son plays hero to damsel in distress

By D. Pazzibugan

THE MOST low-profile of President Macapagal-Arroyo's three grown children was thrust into the media spotlight yesterday, and largely through Malacañang's doing.

In a rare press statement, the Presidential Security Group credited Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo, 27, the younger of the two sons of Ms Macapagal and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, with having saved a woman from being raped.

In the statement, PSG Maj. Inocencio Silbol described how Dato came to play the accidental hero on Feb. 2.

Early that Sunday, Dato and his fiancee Kakai Manotok, with his security convoy, were traveling toward South Ville Village near Ayala Alabang at about 2 a.m. when a woman suddenly emerged from the curb crying for help.

"Mr. Arroyo ordered the convoy to stop and ask the woman what the problem was," Silbol said in his report.

The distraught woman reportedly pointed at a man who she said would have raped her if the convoy had not come along.

She said the man was a tricycle driver whom she had hired to take her to the bus terminal but instead had taken her to that place to rape her.

The PSG reportedly caught the tricycle driver in the act of zipping up his trousers.

Finding himself surrounded by the PSG, the tricycle driver reportedly said that he had been forced to stop because of a malfunctioning engine. The PSG men, however, tested the motorcycle and found it to be operating perfectly.

"Mr. Arroyo decided to leave behind his back-up security and instructed them to help the victim and turn over the tricycle driver to the authorities for the filing of appropriate charges," Silbol said.

Since moving to Malacañang with his family two years ago, Dato has been rarely written about or photographed.

He only gained some media coverage when he announced his engagement last year.

His older brother, Miguel or "Mikey," on the other hand is very much in the media's sights being the vice governor of Pampanga and also an actor.

From playing bit roles in a few movies, Mikey suddenly emerged in leading-man roles opposite some popular teenage actresses soon after his mother became President.

The youngest child Evangeline, or "Luli," does not actively seek the limelight either but gets her regular share of it being the First Couple's only daughter and a frequent companion of her mother during public appearances.

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Three towers of power. Three towers on a continuous podium level define The Columns, Ayala Avenue. Each tower will have 30 storeys, 23 of which will be residential. The five-level upper ground parking is shielded from the outside by an artwork that gives the building prominence along Ayala and Buendia Avenues.

The layout maximizes the advantages of its prominent site, which allows more units to be facing the morning sun while avoiding the afternoon heat. Natural lighting and good ventilation are also taken into consideration in each of the studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom residential units - a rare feature among residential condominiums.

To create a more open feel for space, select units even have bay windows; others have balconies overlooking the city. The top three levels will house very private units, which have breath-taking scenery.

The Recreational Club, which stretches across the 7th floor podium of all three towers, provides residents a source of recreation and an ideal venue for socializing with other residents. It has a 25-meter adults' lap pool, kids' pool, spacious function rooms with spill-over area, a gym, game room with mini-theater, daycare center with indoor and outdoor play area, communal wine cellar, jogging path and transient rooms for the residents' guests - almost like a hotel!

To make it even more fascinating, the ground floor will have landscaped plazas, a row of cafes and al fresco dining spots, indeed the perfect setting for unwinding after a day's busy schedule.

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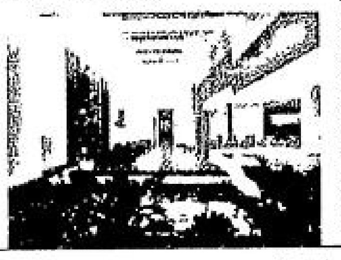

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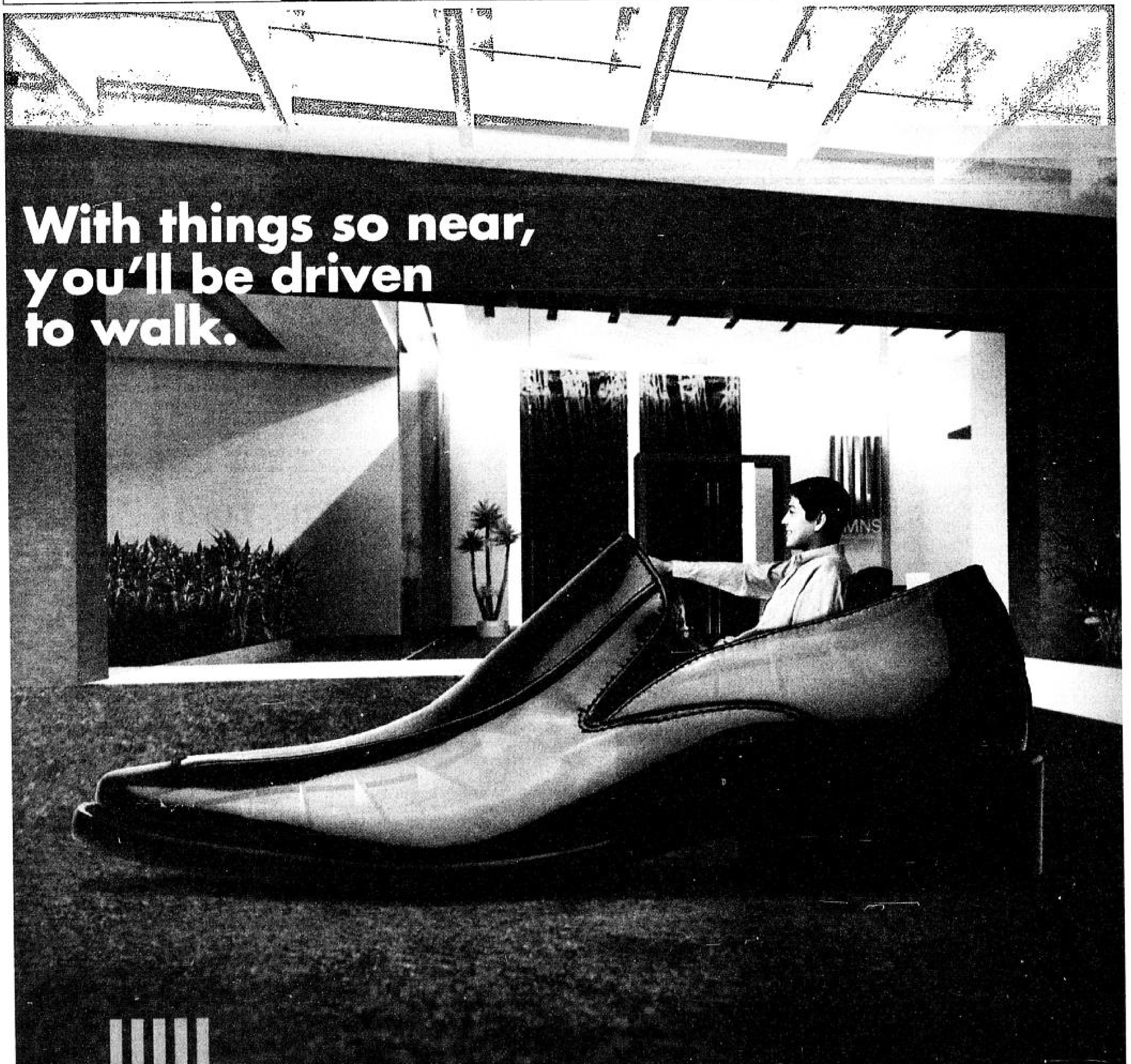

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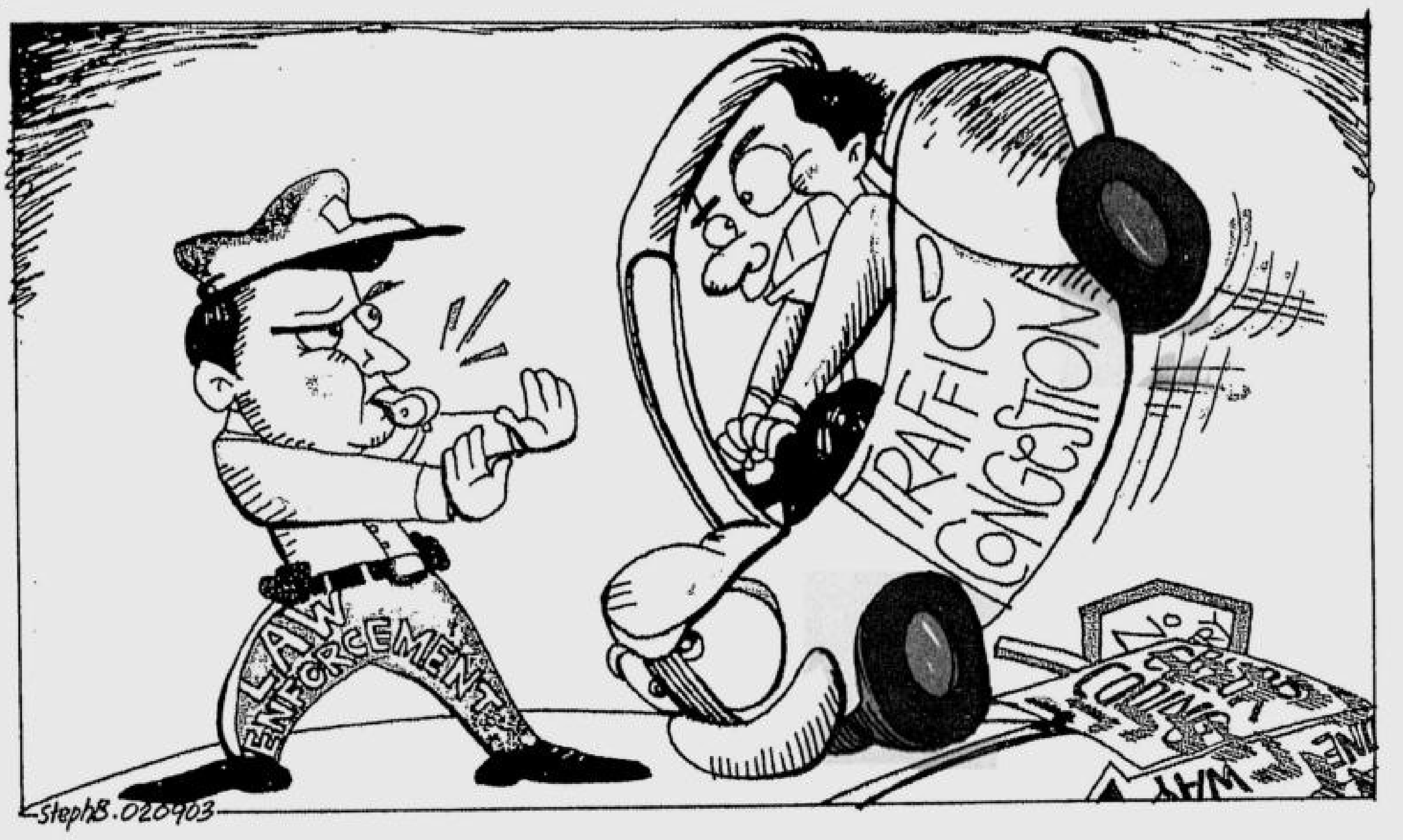

Cleaning money

EDITORIAL

THE INTERNATIONAL pressure on the Philippines to amend its anti-money laundering law can easily be mistaken for a bullying tactic, yet another instance of rich countries ganging up on a poor one. Many members of Congress—upon whose shoulders the task of updating the 17-month-old law has fallen—have struck a nationalist pose. They see in the Feb. 12 deadline set by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering nothing less than an imposition on our sovereignty.

It is easy to see why. Of the 29 countries and two international organizations listed in the FATF's membership roll, only four are Asian: China, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore. Of the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Singapore is the only one in the FATF. Most tellingly, the Task Force (also known by its French acronym GAFI) is an initiative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development—the de facto club of the world's richest nations.

Controversially, the FATF also uses a blacklist. It identifies "non-cooperative countries and territories" through what it calls the NCCT Initiative, seeks changes in their legislative and financial environments, and then imposes "counter-measures" against those which prove recalcitrant. (The Philippines has been considered non-cooperative since June 2000. It remains on the list today, one of 11 holdouts.)

This mix of a rich countries' club and a poor nations' blacklist is most combustible in the area of legislative deadlines. The Anti-Money Laundering Act became law in September 2001—on the very last day the Philippines had for complying with the FATF requirement. Now, amendments to the AMLA are being rushed (even if marathon sessions have to be called, Speaker Jose de Venecia said over the weekend) to meet the FATF deadline this Wednesday.

The idea that both chambers of Congress have to scramble yet again to meet a deadline imposed by a group of faceless men in expensive suits rankles. When something as important as banking regulations are at stake—the confidentiality of the accounts we open, the discretion we would naturally expect when we change our hard-earned pesos into dollars—the notion that the new rules are dictated from outside, in this case from halfway around the world, is deeply unsettling.

Much, in fact, has been made of these encroachments on our sovereignty. While we sympathize with the sentiment, however, we cannot embrace it or make it our own. We live in an increasingly inter-dependent world, in which we are bound not only by the force of treaties or the contracts of commerce but also by the traffic in electronic money. That nearly one-tenth of our gross national product comes from overseas workers' remittances is a clear sign of the times.

On its website, the FATF describes itself as "an inter-governmental body whose purpose is the development and promotion of policies to combat money laundering." Central to its work is the so-called Forty Recommendations, "which set out the basic framework for anti-money laundering efforts and... are designed to be of universal application." This is a crucial point, because the strictures that the FATF seeks do not apply only to developing economies; they apply especially to the FATF members. "FATF countries are clearly committed to accept the discipline of being subjected to multilateral surveillance and peer review."

The post-Sept. 11 revelation that terrorists had used parts of the international financial system to clean up dirty money and then used it to fund acts of terror has only given the Task Force a sense of urgency. (The Recommendations were drawn up in 1990.)

In the case of the Philippines, the Task Force found loopholes in the AMLA, but refrained from imposing counter-measures two years ago. The amendments it now seeks are an attempt to plug those holes. It is unlikely that all the holes will be covered. But Recommendation 28 explicitly recognizes that anti-money laundering "guidelines must develop over time, and will never be exhaustive." It is the better part of wisdom then to pass the amendments, however inadequate, in time, rather than risk the counter-measures. Otherwise, our workers' remittances will be hostage to money-laundered fortune.

US versus The World

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

TO MANY people, Saddam Hussein is evil incarnate as demonstrated by his blood-stained record. He has been tyrannizing his own people, including his immediate family, invaded Kuwait in 1991, and is now threatening the rest of the world with his reported store of biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction that he flatly denies.

The UN inspection team sent by the Security Council to check on such report has come back empty-handed. Perhaps for lack of cooperation from Saddam or, more likely, his clever concealment, it has not discovered the "smoking gun." So far, Saddam appears from its official report to be "not guilty," but that does not mean he is innocent.

The inspection team has asked for an extension of time to continue its searches, and the Security Council will probably agree, if only to delay the invasion of Iraq by the United States. Every effort is being taken by the United Nations to prevent the outbreak of war, which according to its Charter, "twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind."

Secretary of State Colin Powell, originally a dove in President George W. Bush's Cabinet, has finally joined Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in advocating war against Iraq. His appeal for UN support of the US posture against temporizing with Iraq is under advisement in the Security Council, which is expected to reach a decision soon.

So far only the United Kingdom under Prime Minister Tony Blair is supporting President Bush in the Security Council. France and Germany are adamantly against, with Russia on their side although open to contrary persuasion. So is China, another permanent member. In any case, *any* single member of the Big Five can veto the US position.

The United States has made it clear that, in view of the urgency and seriousness of the situation, it will act on its own even without the permission of the Security Council. American forces are already massed in the Middle East, ready to respond once their commander-in-chief signals the attack. The UK and Australian forces are committed to support their US ally.

When President Bush pushes the button, the United States will be waging war not only against Iraq but the rest of the world. The majority of the peoples of this planet are against war regardless of the identified belligerents. The reason is that the conflict and all its adverse consequences will not be confined to the Americans and the Iraqis but will be suffered by the rest of the world.

The modern world has become so physically connected that what happens in one part of it unavoidably affects its other parts. It was not so before, where a crisis in Persia did not disturb Argentina or Siam. Now we live in One World and as the Tagalog proverb would put it, "*Ang sakit sa kalingkingan ay damdamin ng buong katawan* (Pain in the small finger is felt by the whole body)."

It is no longer possible to distinguish between the combatants and the non-combatants in the conduct of the hostilities. The atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 demolished that difference, along with hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. The new sophisticated weapons of mass destruction have placed non-belligerent peoples at greater risk than under the traditional laws of war. Defenseless women, children and the aged are no longer immune from hostile operations.

In our country, the repercussions of the war that has yet to be waged are already being felt. Thousands of our citizens working in Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries will be directly affected, not only by the physical danger but also by the possibility of their loss of lucrative employment. Our government is urging them to return home but many have a mind to stay despite its offers of travel and other assistance.

The return of our OFWs will close a substantial source of revenue that has propped up our economy for years and provided comfortable lives for thousands of Filipino families. Many of the returnees will increase our already bloated ranks of the unemployed. The inevitable rise in the cost of living will further aggravate the already high rate of criminality. Essential government services like health and education will have to be reduced, or even discontinued.

Gasoline prices have already been raised several times, and they are going to increase even more as the war is actually commenced and continues. We have already been warned that our oil supply is good for only 60 days, after which we may be traveling on bicycles or on foot. Food will be scarce and our exports will decrease even as the peso weakens by the day.

Our government is right in waiting to define its position in accordance with the decision of the Security Council. The United Nations and not the United States is the policeman of the world. Saddam may look every inch an international criminal but he is presumed innocent until the contrary is proved. Evidence has yet to establish his guilt beyond reasonable doubt, but Bush is bent on ignoring the Bill of Rights in his country's Constitution.

Heal us, Lord

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE once said in jest that in the end, Peter denied Jesus because He had healed his mother-in-law!

* * *

The healing of Peter's mother-in-law (Mk. 1, 29-39) shows the power of Jesus over sickness and evil. Jesus is the greatest Healer, and His power is greater than all earthly powers.

Whatever power seems to be gripping you right now—sickness, addiction, vices, hatred, selfishness, sin, depression—all these can be conquered by Jesus. Hold on to Him, and you are free. Let go of Him and you are imprisoned.

Healing begins when we acknowledge that there is a power greater than you and I. Unless and until we acknowledge His presence in our lives, we can never get out of our mazes and quagmires. Reach out and let the Lord grasp your hand and raise you up.

* * *

For those who have been healed of whatever affliction (physical, emotional, spiritual, financial, relational), learn from Peter's mother-in-law. "Then the fever left her, and she waited on them." Those who have been healed have a very clear mission to serve. Along with healing comes a mission. In gratitude to God, one who has been healed must in turn become a healer, a wounded healer. Precisely because you have been healed and saved, you too are in a position to be more compassionate, more understanding and more of service to others who find themselves in the same situation where you have been. Healing is not yours alone. It is yours to share.

* * *

Last Dec. 20, a decree on a miracle worked through the intercession of Blessed Arnold Janssen, the founder of the SVD, was published in Rome. This involves the miraculous healing of Pamela Avellosa, a 14-year-old girl from Baguio who fell from her bicycle and had a grave cranial-encephalic trauma on Jan. 2, 1995. She was in a coma, and after the craniotomy, the prognosis was that she would be in a vegetative state.

The grandmother of Pamela together with the Pink Sisters in Baguio, continued to seek the intercession of Blessed Arnold Janssen, and she rapidly began to improve until she recovered completely.

The other decree involves the healing of a 24-year-old Japanese, Jun Yamada, who was cured of acute leukemia and pneumonia through the intercession of Blessed Joseph Freinademetz, the first SVD missionary to China.

It is interesting to note that these final miracles of Blessed Arnold and Blessed Joseph, who will be canonized this October, happened in Asia.

* * *

Last week, I got a text message from Dr. Kim Roces, an oncologist who read my column about the canonization of our founder, Blessed Arnold Janssen, and our first SVD missionary to China, Blessed Joseph Freinademetz. She told me that she had asked one of her patients, a certain Mrs. Tuazon, to seek their intercession. After two days, Mrs. Tuazon was healed of her renal problems.

I admire the faith of people who believe in their doctors, but I admire even more the doctors who believe that they are just instruments of the Greatest Healer.

* * *

What about those who pray but do not get healed? There must be a reason for sickness and suffering when God allows them in a person. For the person, it is a tremendous source of grace and purification. Suffering could help a person redirect his life, or help him/her prepare for the great beyond. Jesus taught us also that suffering can be vicarious. Through our sufferings, we obtain graces not only for ourselves but for others as well.

* * *

Advanced Happy Valentine's Day! May we all express our love to our loved ones more often, more sincerely and more truly. The basic call of Valentine's Day is that you have a heart, that you don't deny or belittle matters of the heart, and that you bring out what is really in your heart.

* * *

Allow me to quote once again the poem, "One Little Rose":

I would rather have one little rose, from the garden of a friend, than have the choicest flowers, when my soul on earth must end.

I would rather love one pleasant word, in kindness said to me, than a flattery when my heart is still, and life has ceased to be.

I would rather have a loving smile, from friends I know are true, than tears shed 'round my casket, when this world I bid adieu.

Bring me all your flowers today, whether pink or white, or red. I'd rather have one blossom now, than a truckload when I'm dead.

* * *

The world again is on the brink of war. Let us turn to Mother Mary's Immaculate Heart and plead for her most powerful intercession. She promised at Fatima "to banish war and fears." To America, Iraq and North Korea, and to the whole world, we say: "Peace be with you!"

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Heal us, Lord. Heal our hearts, heal our families, and heal our relationships. Heal our nation. Heal the world. Amen.

Too many generals

COMMENTARY

Plaridel C. Garcia

IT is not a pleasant task for me to question the number of generals, many of whom I have marched with in uniform and in mufti. To paraphrase an African-American spiritual, we were not saints marching in, but Lord I still want to be in that number.

Alas, the numbers game seems to be a national curse, be they election returns, tax returns, etc. Even Edsa was not the Epiphany of the Saints Avenue. It used to be called Highway 54, where highwaymen outnumbered saints.

The number of generals was a fighting 69 during the time of President Ferdinand Marcos, according to a recent martial law TV documentary citing Fidel V. Ramos as its source. During the time of President Ramos it became a revolutionary 86 (1886, 1986). But now the number is about to soar to a cosmic 172. There is reportedly a proposed legislation increasing the present ratio of generals to the whole corps of officers to 1.75 percent from 0.75 percent. Conceived in 2001, it was submitted by a poet-general who, during his installation as chief of staff, intoned: "Let a thousand stars shine."

Not quite! His four stars shone for about two moons only. And taken literally, a total of 172 generals would have about 200 stars only.

But the military has no monopoly of the star syndrome. We have too many wars, shooting and verbal, for a nation with a Constitution that renounces war as an instrument of national policy. Because war is too complicated to be left to military generals, we have a lot of civilian generals. Too much politics! Because our politics is too uncomplicated for general participation we also have political generals. Too many internal security threats! Because they are too complicated for police directors and superintendents to handle, we have a lot of police generals. Since Marcos, even the president and commander in chief, the symbol of civilian authority over the military, salutes like a general. It is obvious we have here a general problem.

The Armed Forces cannot afford to fully pay its one-star flag officers as much as the top PNP sergeant. The AFP modernization, which we cannot afford, envisions a "lean and mean" military. What we need are more ships, not more admirals; more aircraft, not more Air Force generals; and rapid deployment forces, not more ground generals. In the military, it has been said that if the boys cannot be given the toys of war they should be promoted. But 172 generals with about 200 stars are just too much.

Perhaps we should let "a thousand suns shine." We have them already: colonel (three suns), lieutenant colonel (two suns) and major (one sun). Then there would not be a major problem.

In the first place, how did we arrive at the present 86 flag officers? The ratio of generals to officers' strength in 1935 (National Defense Act) must have been 0.5 percent, following the current ratio in the US military of less than 0.5 percent. When we were plebes about 50 years ago, the AFP chief of staff was a major general. A solitary commodore commanded the Navy, which had better and more ships then. Perhaps it was Marcos who raised the 0.5-percent rule to 0.75 percent.

But we had only 69 generals then, so why do we have 86 now? The present AFP without the PNP and the Navy without the Coast Guard could not possibly have more troops and officers than the Marcos AFP.

Last year, I asked GHQ, AFP for some clarification, but nobody returned my call. Perhaps this is a state secret. For all I know my assumptions may not be correct, but what is correct?

Perhaps it will take a revolution to reduce the "revolutionary" number of 86 generals. In 1986, I recommended to the President, in writing and through channels, that the three top generals of the new AFP be retired as soon as possible—Gen. Fidel Ramos (AFP chief of staff), Lt. Gen Salvador Mison (AFP vice chief of staff) and Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Canieso (commander of the Philippine Army)—otherwise, the general roster would expand. They were not retired, and I was promoted together with many others.

After the failed coup in 1987, I warned about the upgrading of one-star generals to two or three stars without a proper, long-term, impact study. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon agreed. But the Senate passed a law upgrading certain generals.

At a 1993 gathering of generals, those who were about to retire were given the floor. I warned about a star syndrome in the AFP that was inconsistent with its modernization. President Ramos and Defense Secretary Renato de Villa agreed. A few months after I retired, I was no longer sure what they had agreed to.

The Rizal Day paradigm shift occasioned by the President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement that she will not run in 2004 may yet usher in a new *strategos* (Greek for "the art of the general"). It is reputation and self-esteem, not numbers, that make for a strong Armed Forces. On an earlier occasion, the President stated a new paradigm in civil-military relations that stresses doctrines, not ranks and personalities. Certainly, the President and the past, present and incoming chief of staff can play a good game of the generals. The republic will not be stronger and brighter by having too many stars.

Plaridel C. Garcia is a retired Navy commodore and former assistant secretary of national defense.

Paths to leadership

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SOMETIMES, the road to leadership can be crooked. Crooked in the sense of diverging from the straight and well-worn path, that is, and not from the moral right-of-way, though that can happen, too.

Two speakers on "Everyday Leadership" at this year's National Ayala Young Leaders Congress exemplify the circuitous route to leadership, for Lory Tan and Chit Juan explored many other callings and commitments before finding their niche and imprinting their brand of leadership on it.

"Leadership is a gift, a choice, a process. It is jazz and partnership," was Lory's enigmatic summation of his lifelong journey toward where he is now, president of the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines, and therefore a leading light in the national environmental movement.

His path to leadership—not to mention respectability—seemed doubtful at first for he began as a singer with a rock band. Even as a psychology student at the Ateneo, Lory was singing with the Circus Band, that incubator of major musical talents in the country, the likes of Basil Valdez, Tillie Moreno, Jacqui Magno, Haji Alejandro and Pat Castillo. But with his grades falling and martial law dictating that every nightclub gig last until five the next morning, Lory decided to return to school, earn a diploma and find work. But though his father gently nudged him toward a management position with the family-owned Bookmark, Lory resisted and tried other paths, from diving instructor to nature and travel photographer.

Though he eventually gave in and took up a position with Bookmark, a 15-year stint memorable for having trailblazed a series of books on all aspects of Philippine culture, from food to music to architecture to travel, there was one constant in Lory's life: concern for the environment. And as this concern grew in urgency, Lory decided it demanded nothing less than his total commitment and left Bookmark and the book publishing industry to focus on the environment.

* * *

FOR CHIT Juan, leadership seems to have been a function of birth order. The youngest of eight children, and thus perennially put-upon by her older siblings, Chit says she must have "felt the need to shine somewhere else." Which explains, she says, her being a "bully" (though she quickly retracts the term) in school, a natural leader who not only led her classmates through many an escapade but also used them as her test market for her sales skills.

But like Lory, graduation from college brought Chit to a confusing crossroads, leading her down paths chosen from such contradictory impulses as a yearning for independence, the need to earn her father's respect, a search for a safe harbor, and restlessness and an appetite for adventure.

It would be a "hobby" of hers, though, that eventually led her to her current position of CEO of the Figaro Coffee Co., founded in 1998 and now boasting of 30 stores nationwide (and one in Hong Kong) proudly serving Philippine *barako* coffee.

"Focus not on success but on significance," Chit quotes Oprah Winfrey, explaining why at this point in her life she is focusing on "saving" the native *barako*, an indigenous coffee variety in danger of extinction, and on developing the local coffee industry.

* * *

BOTH Lory and Chit agree that leadership is developed and enhanced not in a vacuum but only with the help of others.

In his years working on environmental concerns, says Lory, "I have realized that you can't do everything yourself. To broaden your effect, you must learn to partner with others." This is why WWF-Philippines has chosen as its priority the creation of partnerships with local communities, he says, for it's the people who must live in and with endangered resources and habitats who would be most committed to saving them.

Chit helped found Figaro with a group of friends who like her not only loved coffee, but believed the native *barako* was far superior to other coffee varieties in all aspects—flavor, aroma, body and color. "Filipinos know their coffee," she asserts, which is why they have chosen as their slogan "You know coffee."

But Chit says she loves not just our native coffee, but the soil and land that nurture it. "My decision to help the industry is the expression of my nationalism," she reflects, explaining to her youthful audience that though she may not have been active in rallies and demonstrations during her student days at the University of the Philippines, she still imbibed the spirit of nationalism and commitment to the country that the student movement was all about.

* * *

WHAT did the young student leaders, chosen from hundreds of applicants from around the country, take away from this year's conference?

From the insights shared by Lory and Chit, as well as by outstanding teacher Josette Biyo and PNOC Exploration CEO Rufino Bomasang, some of these might be: that leadership is both a gift and a skill, that everyone has the potential for leadership but needs to work at honing the other talents needed for its effective exercise, that humble beginnings or youthful confusion need not be obstacles to finding one's niche and meaning in life.

One insight I came away with is that there is not one single style of leadership, only the style that best fits the individual's personality and capacities and, dare I say, destiny. For as the four speakers proved, life sometimes hands you the opportunity to either assume a position of leadership or walk away from it. Whether you step up to the plate or slink away is entirely up to you, a matter of heart and spunk, and believing that you have something to "give back to life," no matter how small it is.

Iraq's troubled past

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

TOWARD the end of his speech before the Security Council of the United Nations on Feb. 5, US Secretary of State Colin Powell declared: "For more than 20 years, by word and by deed, Saddam Hussein has pursued his ambition to dominate Iraq and the broader Middle East using the only means he knows: intimidation, coercion and annihilation of all those who might stand in his way. For Saddam, possession of the world's most deadly weapons is the ultimate trump card, the one he must hold to fulfill his ambition."

No one probably knows this better than Iraq's own neighbors: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Iran and Turkey. They all fear an Iraq run by Saddam. They would love to see this monster disarmed. And yet, apart from Kuwait, none of them has come out openly to support a US invasion of Iraq. Their people are vehemently against it.

Islam has not been strong enough as a binding force to create a united Middle East. And pan-Arabism itself died with the dissolution of the United Arab Republic in 1961. But, immersed in their respective nationalist preoccupations, these Islamic states know that the only thing worse than a regional tyrant like Saddam is a Western superpower establishing itself once more as the new source of order in this troubled region. In their memory is etched the pain and the terror of Western colonial rule over the region.

It is worth revisiting that particular phase in the history of the Middle East, not only because it is quite recent, but because the United States today is poised to play a role in the region that Britain assumed for itself at the height of World War I.

Mired in self-delusion, Britain bungled that role miserably. After assuming the League of Nations mandate to govern Iraq in 1920, Britain faced a popular rebellion that blasted its pretensions as a liberator and unifier of the Iraqi people. To crush the rebellion, Britain had to unleash its new aerial weapons, bombarding civilian populations and using poison gas against them. This prompted a disturbed T.E. Lawrence to write: "We have killed ten thousand Arabs in this rising this summer. We cannot hope to maintain such an average: it is a poor country, sparsely populated."

Before World War I, Britain was content to work with the Ottoman Turks that had ruled the region loosely for 400 years. To some extent they worked under the illusion that the Ottoman Empire was a British interest. More than once it helped restore Ottoman rule in provinces taken over by other powers. But the geography of imperial interests was bound to change. By the turn of the century, the Ottoman territories began to be coveted by the European powers.

Britain was particularly interested in two provinces: Palestine and Mesopotamia (Iraq). Palestine because of its importance to the Zionist Jews of Europe, for whom, said the Balfour Declaration of 1917, a permanent home had to be found. And Iraq not only for its strategic location, but especially because of its oil. Consider how much these two ancient places continue to be the center of gravity of today's most critical conflicts, and one immediately understands how the motive forces that drive this conflict have little to do with weapons of mass destruction.

Playing God like today's America, Britain had become accustomed to ignoring local opinion. It did not matter that 90 percent of Palestine's inhabitants at that time were non-Jewish. The population equation would soon change with the movement of Jewish settlers and refugees from Europe. Mesopotamia itself had been the home of various tribes, including the Kurds, Sunni Arabs and Shiite Arabs who preferred to live apart from one another. But Britain proceeded to form a modern Iraq by bringing under one centralized administration these heterogeneous peoples. The rebellion of the Kurdish people, who were nearly massacred by Saddam in 1988, testifies to this colonial foolishness.

More than that, Britain brought in a monarch from outside, Prince Feisal, after he was kicked out as king of Syria by the French. Feisal had fought loyally with Lawrence in the campaign against the Turks, and the British wanted to reward him. The British remained in Iraq for 36 years, until 1956. Their rule was fiercely resisted by the nations it had brought under its dominion, and, later, even by the army itself, its own creation.

Throughout World War II and the Cold War, the Iraqi state served as a loyal Western outpost, staunchly secular and anti-communist. But just two years after the British left, the military staged a coup, slaughtered the royal family and destroyed the British embassy. From then on, Iraq was governed either by the military or the Ba'ath Party, which outdid one another in ruthlessness. In 1968, Saddam outwitted both and, with the help of a brutal secret police, became Iraq's dictator.

Saddam turned Iraq into the region's most modern and technologically advanced country. He is indeed, as Powell describes him, a "secular tyrant." But throughout the '70s and '80s, this scoundrel's most abiding allies were none other than the United States and Britain. As the journalist Charles Glass tells it: "He is the same gangster to whom the US supplied satellite reconnaissance photographs, loans, dual-use technology and diplomatic support."

How could the United States and Britain have failed to detect the evil in the man they now consider its very personification? Maybe the man hasn't changed, but American and British interests have.

* * *

The UP community is inviting the public to a peace march around the Diliman campus on Valentine's Day, starting with a program at 4:30 p.m.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Can war still be avoided?

COMMENTARY

Alon Ben-Meir, Ph.D.

IS war with Iraq imminent? The short answer is, yes. The long answer is that there is a small likelihood that war can be averted if one of the following scenarios materialize in a fairly short order:

In the first scenario, Saddam Hussein leaves Iraq for exile under conditions acceptable to him and the United States. A proposal to this effect has been floated by the Saudis and other Arab nations. According to many who have a keen knowledge of Saddam—his historical perspective, how he sees his role in the Arab world, his aspirations—and Iraq's 4,000-year history, the likelihood that he will accept exile is extremely small. He sees himself as the savior of the dignity of the Arab world and its defender against Western, especially American, domination. Exile will also mean that none of his sons will succeed him as other sons of Arab leaders have their fathers in Syria, Jordan and Morocco. Only with a succession will he feel as if his reign has been brought to a legitimate close, and that his future place in Iraqi history is assured. Finally, Saddam's pride will prevent him from accepting the humiliation of exile. Thus, if there is another option that ensures his survival without his leaving Iraq, he may very well seize it.

In the second scenario, Saddam will be deposed by a military coup supported by the United States. This scenario is slightly more likely to occur, and it can be played out just when war becomes absolutely imminent. Observers familiar with the Iraqi leader's security apparatus, however, tend to dismiss the prospects for a coup. Saddam's tightly-knit group of advisors and multi-layered security apparatus make it immensely difficult, if not impossible, to penetrate his inner circle in time. Moreover, those in charge of his immediate security are very close family members, including his son Odey, who is the head of the special forces that guard his father. This group is all hand-picked, well trained, highly paid and enjoys a social and economic leverage that few Iraqis can match. Several attempts on Saddam's life have been foiled in the past, precisely because the multiple security rings surrounding him are so impenetrable. Perhaps not surprisingly, they have been trained and organized by the former Soviet KGB.

In the third scenario, Saddam will surprise everyone by revealing much or even all of his hidden weapons of mass destruction on the condition that we leave him alone. I believe that this option is the most likely one to be played out if he decides to look for a way to avert war. It is true that he would lose face, anger many of his senior military officers, disappoint extremists within the Muslim and the Arab world and allow the United States to keep the pressure on Iraq for years to come. This option, however, remains the safest of the three, and gives him some hope of rising again even without WMD, to lead, or be at the forefront of, the struggle for an Arab renaissance.

Knowing that when war comes he will face death or, at best, live out his remaining years as a fugitive, Saddam may just rethink his options. Ruthless and calculating, but neither a madman nor a fool, he is also far from being suicidal. And he is capable of a dramatic, bold gesture: This is the man who several months ago woke up one morning and released all of his prisoners to the utter surprise of everyone inside and outside his country. He is similarly capable of waking up one morning and declaring his readiness not only to allow U2 surveillance flights over Iraq and granting his scientists permission to be interviewed by United Nations weapons inspectors, but of disclosing the whereabouts of many of his WMD, blaming several of his top officers for hiding them without his knowledge. Farfetched? Yes. Possible? Yes.

As the clock continues to tick and the drums of war beat louder and louder, Saddam knows that if he does not act, his days are numbered. As an increasing number of nations coalesce around the United States in support of war (probably as many as supported the first Gulf war), sooner, rather than later, Iraq's president will conclude that he can no longer count on the French or the Germans to stop an attack. President George W. Bush has virtually made the decision to go to war, with or without a Security Council resolution, French or German support, and despite the tragic disaster of the shuttle Columbia. It is entirely possible that between now and the end of February, as we complete our troop deployment in the region and reach a full state of readiness, Saddam may—just may—come to his senses. More than anything else he wants to live, and if he can accomplish this goal with some dignity, he just might choose this last option.

Throughout this crisis, I have believed, and continue to believe, that war should be averted and so I am prepared to create what some may view as the craziest scenarios for how this might occur. But what the heck, maybe this time the Iraqi leader will, in a spasm of lucidity, do the utterly unexpected. If so, he can save himself and his people from the agonies of war and the terrible wounds it will inflict on them for generations to come.

President Bush would have every reason to rejoice over such an outcome. He would take the credit for forcing Saddam Hussein's hand and thereby, moving the region closer to security, stability and peace.

Alon Ben-Meir, Ph.D., is the Middle East project director of the World Policy Institute, New York. He is also a professor of International Relations at the New York University.

THEY SAID

Blessing

"It takes a sick mind to get bothered by the sight of a baby. The normal mind gets excited and thrilled to see a baby because every baby is a blessing."

—Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas on the presence of babies in the Fourth World Meeting of Families

Counterforce

"This clearly justifies the government's policy of counterforce against the CPP-NPA, which has lost all legitimacy in its struggle."

—Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye after the Communist Party of the Philippines admitted responsibility to the killing of former New People's Army chief Romulo Kintanar

Hopeless

"If Congress has no moral values, there is no hope for this country."

—Bea Zobel

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TALK of the TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Was NPA 'correct' in killing Kintanar? (2)

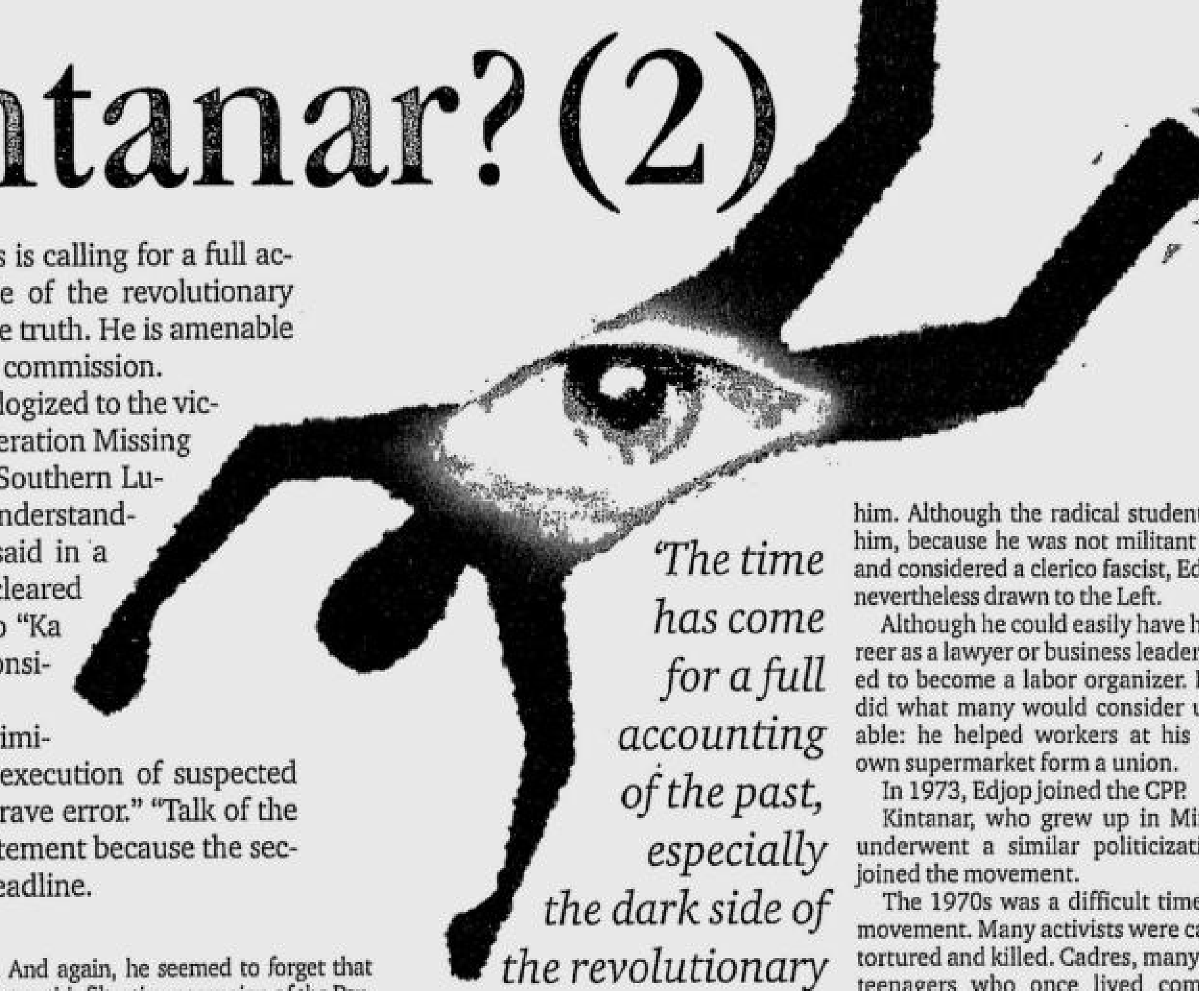
THE REVELATIONS made by Rodolfo Salas, former chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, about the role of certain CPP officials in the bloody purge of suspected government spies in the underground movement elicited responses from an alleged former CPP official and the CPP itself.

Salas made the disclosure in this section last week as he took the cudgels for Romulo Kintanar, former chief of the New People's Army, the CPP's armed wing, whom the NPA assassinated for his alleged involvement in activities like bank robberies, kidnapping for ransom and the government's anti-insurgency campaign.

In the interest of fair play, this section is running the side of Ric Reyes, said to be a former member of the CPP Politburo. While condemning the killing of Kintanar and clarifying his role in the purge in Mindanao, Reyes is calling for a full accounting of the dark side of the revolutionary movement to bring out the truth. He is amenable to the setting up of a truth commission.

For its part, the CPP apologized to the victims and survivors of "Operation Missing Link," a bloody purge in Southern Luzon. "We asked for their understanding and forgiveness," it said in a statement. But the CPP cleared its spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal of any responsibility in the purge.

It described the indiscriminate arrest, torture and execution of suspected enemy infiltrators as "a grave error." "Talk of the Town" cannot run the statement because the section received it past the deadline.



'The time has come for a full accounting of the past, especially the dark side of the revolutionary movement, which cast a long shadow over Rolly's death. We can only dispel this darkness by disclosing everything'

'Let's have truth, not publicity work'

By Ricardo B. Reyes

TWO sets of words can best describe the justifications given by the Reaffirm leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in owning up to the killing of Rolly Kintanar: absolutely arbitrary and absolutely one-sided and self-serving.

They were absolutely arbitrary in three respects. First, there was a complete absence of due process if we go by all standards, including the very limited CPP practice of informing the accused of his alleged offenses and calling him/her to a trial where he/she can confront the accuser/s and defend himself/herself. Second, the so-called "people's court" which sentenced Rolly to death was accountable to none other than his accusers themselves.

And third, the grounds cited to indict him were conveniently modified after the decision was made. The original decision in 1995 included factional activities related to ideological and political differences. Now, his killers were denying that ideological and political differences were the bases for their decision.

They were also absolutely one-sided and selfish. Granting for the sake of argument that the "criminal activities" as described actually happened, the Reaffirm CPP leaders showed no discernment at all as to whether these activities were mandated by policy or were within the ambit of long-standing practices accepted by all, or were tolerated by the leadership or were purely individual actions consciously hidden from the organization. Rolly's killers simply claimed that it was the latter but they had to explain how in heaven's name could Rolly pull off such gigantic violations inside an organization, which by rule, practice and tradition is strictly collectivist and centralist. The Reaffirm CPP leaders did not discern and did not explain because they themselves were party to these 'crimes,' either as participants in the decision-making or as implementors or both.

CPP cadres and CPP records would attest that a series of anti-infiltration campaigns were launched by the Party from 1982 to 1989: *Cadena de Amor* in Southern Tagalog in 1982, *Kahos (Kampanyang Ahos)* in Mindanao in 1985, OPML (Operation Missing Link) again in Southern Tagalog in 1988, and a nationwide anti-infiltration campaign in 1988-89. Among the leaders of the CPP during this period, especially the members of the executive committee and the Politburo, are the Reaffirm CPP leaders today. The other alleged 'criminal activities' attributed to Rolly and some other people happened roughly within this period. How can the Reaffirm CPP leaders wash their hands of these 'crimes?'

For 10 years, for 10 long years, I and a number of Rejectionist leaders have chosen to exercise utmost restraint in dealing with the vicious and savage attacks launched by the Reaffirm leaders against our political positions and our person. We persisted in principled polemics and limited ourselves to contextualizing the ugly internal issues of the past. There were two important considerations then. First, we would like the polemic to be focused on how to renew the movement and chart a better course for it. To our mind then, "washing the dirty linen in public" was highly uncalled for because it is the movement that would suffer in the end. And second, self-defense. Many of us were still standing trial before government courts. To speak freely and openly on internal issues would make government prosecutors deliriously happy.

Half-truths

I was hoping that being comrades for a long period, the Reaffirm leaders would respond in kind. But no, our stance only emboldened them further to vilify us and to distort the truth. In time, these lies and half-truths started to sound like gospel truths. To make matters worse, some Party leaders chose to remain silent or neutral, fearing a similar fate as ours. Others even took advantage of the situation to settle personal scores with us.

I am reminded of all this when I read Rodolfo Salas' piece in last week's "Talk of the Town" issue. I feel sad that he is again bent on wasting a real chance to play a positive role in these difficult times by being honest with the past and with himself. He seemed to forget that I was never a member, much less the head of the Mindanao Caretaker Committee during the time he was referring to. I believe I should never absolve myself of any responsibility for anything. But let us set the facts straight. Not even the Reaffirm people accused me of being so. People in the Party would laugh at his claim that it was he and Rolly who stopped the *Kahos* campaign. Rolly never claimed that. For all the faults of the Mindanao Commission, it was the one which really stopped the *Kahos* campaign, not the National Executive Committee of the Party, which Rudy Salas himself had admitted to have headed until April 1986. And again, he seemed to forget that the first anti-infiltration campaign of the Party happened in 1982 in Southern Tagalog when he was very much head of the Party.

Dark side

With Rolly's assassination, there is a far larger issue that cries for resolution than getting his killers and the masterminds and prosecuting them. The time has come for a full accounting of the past, especially the dark side of the revolutionary movement, which casts a long shadow over Rolly's death. We can only dispel this darkness by disclosing everything, by being thorough and fair, no matter who gets hurt.

Media can help. But we need a more thorough and rigorous process and mechanism to bring out the truth. And not a publicity war in which people can grandstand at the expense of others. I understand some veteran activists are suggesting a civil society truth commission for this. I understand that they think of getting men and women whose probity, independence, sense of fairness and sympathy for the movement no party involved can challenge. I agree that it should be a civil society mechanism, not government which has definitely no moral ascendancy to do this, given its failure until now to prosecute human rights violators under the Marcos regime and the Aquino's administration.

[Reyes is an alleged former member of the CPP Politburo (October 1985-1992), and of the CPP Executive Committee (1986-1991)]

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ / PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

'The underground Left defiled the memory of a Filipino hero'

By Benjamin Pimentel

THE MURDER of Rolly Kintanar marked a tragic twist to the story of one of the beloved heroes of the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship: Edgar Jopson.

Edjop was one of Kintanar's closest comrades and friends in the underground movement in Mindanao in the late 1970s and early 1980s. After Edjop's death in a military raid in Davao in 1982, Kintanar fell in love with and married Edjop's widow, Joy Asuncion Jopson, who was also an activist. He and Joy had a son, Gabby, 10, and Kintanar also became a devoted father figure to Edjop's own children, Nonoy, 28, Joyette, 23, and Risa, 20.

The Communist Party of the Philippines claims that Kintanar deserved to die because of his alleged crimes. But by murdering him, the CPP has subjected the family of one of the martyrs of the anti-Marcos movement to yet another round of traumatic violence. By killing the man who took care of Edjop's children, the movement Edjop helped build spat on the grave of a martyr.

Who was Edjop?

During the political turmoil in the 1960s and early 1970s, he was known nationally as the leader of the moderate wing of the student activist movement. He was a top student at the Ateneo and the son of a successful businessman who built the country's first self-service supermarket.

During the First Quarter Storm, Edjop was best known for one of the most memorable confrontations in Malacañang. During a meeting between student leaders and Marcos, Edjop dared ask the President to promise in writing that he would not seek a third term. Marcos snapped at the young leader, derisively referring to him "a son of a grocer."

That made him a legend in student activist circles and the middle class. Edjop was named one of the 10 outstanding young men of 1970. Had he decided to take a different, less traditional, route, many of his contemporaries believe that he would have emerged as a leading political figure of the post-war period that includes President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But Edjop took another road. While the mainstream had embraced him as a promising young leader, Edjop had become increasingly disillusioned with mainstream politics.

He wasn't alone. During the 1960s, young Filipinos, many from rich and middle class families, began to rebel against a social order that essentially treated the country's poor like garbage.

New viewpoint

They were won over by a new political viewpoint: that it is not enough for political leaders to work for the interest of the poor—the poor themselves must be part of the process.

That led to an important break in Philippine politics. Young Filipinos from the educated classes began dreaming of changing Philippine society and helping the poor not just by building their political careers, but by building a political movement that included the poor.

Young men and women who were used to having maids or workers bowing to them and treating them like lords at home or at work now wanted to help them organize to fight for their rights.

One of the early causes Edjop joined took place outside the home of an influential politico. The politician was throwing a party that included a champagne fountain. Outraged by such an ostentatious display of wealth amid growing poverty in Metro Manila, Edjop and his fellow students staged a protest.

When a local warlord-politician burned down a barrio in the Ilocos after he lost an election, Edjop led other students in trying to escort the peasant victims to safety.

Some of his friends whom I interviewed for "Edjop: The Unusual Journey of Edgar Jopson," say that was the turning point for him. Although the radical students hated him, because he was not militant enough and considered a clerico fascist, Edjop was nevertheless drawn to the Left.

Although he could easily have had a career as a lawyer or business leader, he opted to become a labor organizer. He even did what many would consider unthinkable: he helped workers at his family's own supermarket form a union.

In 1973, Edjop joined the CPP.

Kintanar, who grew up in Mindanao, underwent a similar politicization and joined the movement.

The 1970s was a difficult time for the movement. Many activists were captured, tortured and killed. Cadres, many of them teenagers who once lived comfortable lives, endured hunger and separation from their families.

But while the movement was weak, outnumbered and constantly on the run, it did not lack for young idealistic activists who were willing to give up their lives for the cause. And there were many stories of heroism and sacrifice for the *masa*, for the *rebolusyon*. The poet Eman Lacaba, captured the spirit of his generation in a poem he wrote shortly before his death in an encounter with the military:

"We are tribeless, but all tribes are ours,

"We are nameless but all names are ours,

"We are homeless but all homes are ours.

"The road less traveled by we have taken,

And that has made all the difference."

La Tondeña strike

In 1975, Edjop helped organize the first major labor strike against the Marcos regime at La Tondeña. It was a daring political move that helped shatter the wall of silence and fear that emerged following the declaration of martial law. Edjop and the workers came up with the slogan, "*Tama na, Sobra na, Welga na.*"

Years later, that battle cry would be modified to "*Tama na, Sobra na, Palitan na,*" during Cory Aquino's presidential campaign that eventually led to Marcos' downfall.

That showed how, in many ways, the movement helped define the fight against Marcos.

But as the underground Left became more powerful, it also grew more arrogant and brutal. Along with tales of sacrifice and courage, there were other stories as wel—of how the movement kidnapped innocent civilians for ransom to raise funds, bullied and harassed political opponents, and tortured and killed its own cadres.

Kintanar's role in some of these crimes is unclear. A former cadre, Nathan Quimpo, has said some, not all, are probably true although he and other critics of the movement also accuse the movement of hypocrisy. For whatever crimes Kintanar had allegedly committed as the leader of the NPA, they stress, were done with the approval of the CPP leadership.

According to his friends and family, Kintanar stayed out of politics ever since he was released from prison in 1991. In the decade before he was killed, he had focused mainly on helping his former comrades who had left the movement rebuild their lives. He also concentrated on being a husband and a father to his son and the children of his old friend and comrade.

Two stories

His assassination underscored the dual nature of the movement he and Edjop helped build. For the history of the underground Left is actually composed of two stories.

One, an inspiring tale of courage and sacrifice, of young idealistic Filipinos—like Edjop, Lorena Barros, Eman Lacaba, Ferdie Arceo, Lean Alejandro—who saw a society reeling from poverty and oppression, and who bravely joined the struggle to end that suffering.

The other, an ugly and terrifying story of violence and viciousness, of hardened ideologues who would wage war at all cost, even if it meant depriving children of their parents and plunging a society into a long conflict, senseless and cruel.

(Pimentel is the author of "Edjop: The Unusual Journey of Edgar Jopson," which was a finalist for Best Book in the 1989 Catholic Mass Media AWards. He is currently a staff writer of the San Francisco Chronicle, covering business and technology)

Iraq steps up cooperation; US sends 2 more carriers

MARINES with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force shoot M-16 rifles during live fire exercises in Kuwaiti desert south of Iraq Feb. 7. AP

VIENNA—Chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix said Friday that Iraq appeared to be "making an effort" to meet demands for increased cooperation as Washington, warning that "the game is over," ordered two more aircraft carriers to the Gulf.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, in Europe to try to build support for a possible US-led war on Iraq, said that international diplomatic efforts to get Iraq to disarm had failed.

Visiting Aviano Air Base in northern Italy, he said a war with Iraq, if it happens, would last "six days, maybe six weeks" but certainly less than six months.

Iraqi officials allowed the first private interview between weapons inspectors and an Iraqi scientist as they braced for a weekend visit here by Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, director of the UN nuclear watchdog, due to report to the UN Security Council next Friday.

Blix welcomed the latest Iraqi move, telling reporters in Vienna: "It seems they are making an effort," adding that he hoped to "see a lot more this weekend."

On Thursday Blix and ElBaradei urged Iraq to show a "drastic change" of attitude and cooperate fully as time runs out to avert a war as the United States forged ahead with its military buildup.

Two more US aircraft carriers are to steam to the Gulf region, a military source said, bringing the number of carriers massing around Iraq to six.

US President George W. Bush, ratcheting up the pressure on Washington's reluctant allies, late Thursday demanded tough action from the United Nations, declaring that "the game is over. All the world can rise to this moment.

But French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin retorted: "It is not a game and it not over."

"There is another alternative to war," he said during a visit to India.

A negative report by Blix and ElBaradei on Feb. 14 could serve to trigger the invasion the United States has threatened to unleash on the grounds that Iraq continues to produce and conceal weapons of mass destruction.

Iraqi officials Friday also gave reporters a tour of two missile sites named by US Secretary of State Colin Powell in his searing indictment of Baghdad before the UN Security Council as facilities containing banned weapons.

"We are showing this site to the media and the world to expose the lies of Colin Powell," site director Ali Jassem told his visitors.

Saddam aide 'Amer al-Saadi had Thursday described Powell's charges as "unworthy of a superpower" and "intended mainly for the uninformed . . . and to undermine the UN bodies" charged with implementing UN disarmament resolutions.

But Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz conceded in an interview published Friday that a US-led war against his country now seemed inevitable.

"We are well aware what is happening near our borders," he said in reference to a massiv US military buildup in neighboring Kuwait "The Americans and their few allies intend t destroy Iraq," he said. "For them, it seems this question is already decided."

Adding to tensions that caused oil prices t spike to new two-year highs, Washington wa to raise its terrorism threat warning leve from "elevated" to "high" over increased risk of attack, a US official said.

On the diplomatic front Friday, France Russia and China, any of which could veto new UN resolution authorizing war, all stuc to their cautious positions.

Russian Foreign Minister Ivan Ivanov sai Moscow saw "no basis for adopting a UN Security Council resolution that would open th way for the use of force against Iraq."

Chinese President Jiang Zemin, for hi part, spoke to Bush by telephone and said tha "support should be given to UN weapon inspections in Iraq and it is the common aspira tion of the international community to safe guard the Security Council's authority whe dealing with significant issues like the Iraq issue," state media reported in Beijing.

Bush, who said he would welcome a sec ond UN resolution, maintained on Friday tha the one passed Nov. 8 was clear, suggestin again that Washington would act with o without clear UN approval.

UN Security Council resolution "144 speaks for itself," said Bush. AF

Women bare all to fight Bush policy

NEW YORK—Protesters are trying a nude way to stir interest in the anti-war movement.

When US demonstrators hit the streets to rally against a a military conflict in Iraq, they often grumble that too few Americans take notice.

So one group opted for an eye-catching alternative.

Just after dawn on Friday, roughly 30 women scurried into the heart of Central Park, splitting up into groups to avoid arousing police suspicion. Once they reached their destination, the Bethesda Fountain, they displayed their deep misgivings about war by disrobing amid a steady snowfall.

Lying down in shivering temperatures, the group of women—students, executives and artists among them—used their stark naked bodies to spell out the words "No Bush." "I have never done anything remotely like this before, but I think it's incredibly cool," said Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, a 40-year-old activist housewife. "We're totally vulnerable out here, yet we're making a wonderful statement." It didn't take long for a flock of nude women to attract attention. Central Park workers scrambled to break up the gathering, but by the time they arrived, the women were fully clothed.

Women have staged similar nude protests in this country, as well as in Europe and South Africa in recent months, said the event's organizer, Wendy Tremayne.

The women said they are frustrated that too many Americans have passively accepted war with Iraq as inevitable and unavoidable.

"Part of it is apathy," said Kate Heim, 25. "The other part is that people don't realize it's about to happen. It doesn't seem real." Tremayne expressed disgust with what what she called a high-handed, go-it-alone US approach in foreign policy.

"For me, it's been a growing embarrassment about being American that started before Bush," Tremayne said. "This event derives from the belief that people can do things, that people still care and can make a difference." Reuters

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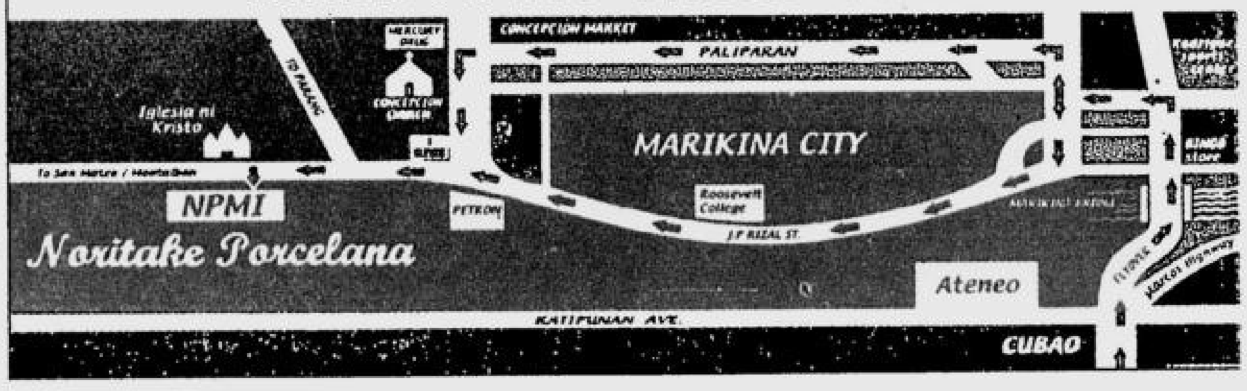

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Saturday; 8:00 - 12:00 n.n.

Bush keeping 'all options' open on North Korea

SEOUL/WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush, preparing for possible war in Iraq, said all options were open to end the nuclear standoff with North Korea which warned of "horrible nuclear disasters" should the United States attack.

Bush said he hoped the problem could be resolved diplomatically and the United States has repeatedly stressed that it has no intention of attacking North Korea, which Bush last year branded part of an "axis of evil" along with Iraq and Iran.

"All options are on the table, but I believe we can solve this diplomatically," Bush told reporters in Washington on Friday when asked whether he was prepared to use military force in North Korea, which the United States suspects of building nuclear weapons.

US bombers, fighter jets and warships have been put on alert for possible deployment to the western Pacific to deter any aggression by North Korea in the event of a war in Iraq.

North Korea's state media kept up its bellicose rhetoric after a senior diplomat told British reporters in Pyongyang that "preemptive attacks are not the exclusive right of the US."

Pyongyang portrayed US contingency plans to beef up forces in the western Pacific during any Iraq hostilities as actual deployments that foreshadowed an attack.

"If the US moves to bolster aggression troops are unchecked, the whole land of Korea will be reduced to ashes and the Koreans will not escape horrible nuclear disasters," the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland was quoted as saying by North Korea's KCNA news agency.

On Saturday, it quoted Pyongyang's Rodong Shinmun newspaper as saying: "Our people are at a crossroads between war and peace." Bush said he had spoken with Chinese President Jiang Zemin to seek China's help in resolving the crisis with North Korea, which Washington says has admitted to enriching uranium in violation of a 1994 accord, under which the North froze its nuclear program in exchange for two electricity-generating reactors and free fuel.

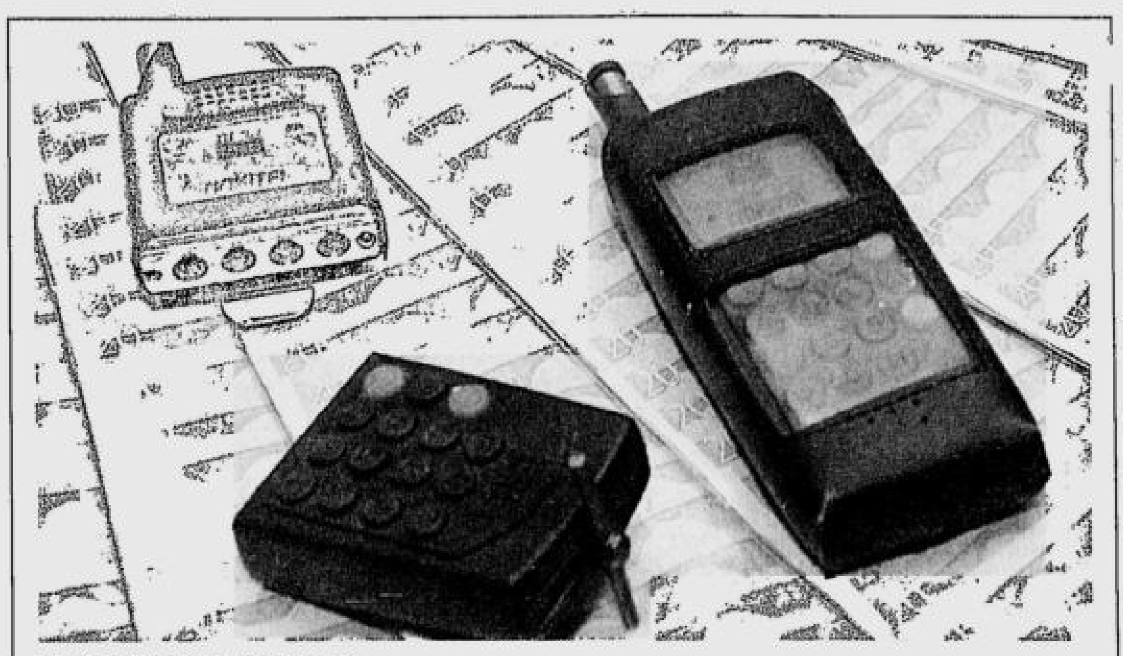
"President Bush's words . . . do not deviate from Washington's original stance," a foreign ministry official said in Seoul.

"We view it as only natural for a president to keep all options open."

Since December, North Korea has expelled International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors, withdrawn from the Non-Proliferation Treaty and threatened to resume missile tests.

"I talked to the president of China and reminded him that we have a joint responsibility to uphold the goal (of) a nuclear weapons-free peninsula," Bush said.

He said he had made the same point in a recent conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and said he had also discussed North Korea with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. *Reuters*



DEADLY CELL PHONES

French police in Rouen found two lethal mobile phones capable of shooting four bullets with digital touchpads as triggers Feb. 7. Police seized the phones, which feature a four-chamber secret compartment for .22-cal. bullets, along with 1,000 ecstasy pills, heroin, cannabis and 23,000 euros in cash at the home of a man suspected of armed robberies and drug trafficking. REUTERS

Snowstorm buffets northeast US, grounds planes, kids

BRADLEY BEACH, New Jersey—A fast-moving storm surprised much of the northeastern United States on Friday, dumping nearly 10 inches of snow that caused more than 100 flight cancellations and closed hundreds of schools.

The storm, which began Thursday night over Virginia and Maryland, intensified as it swept north.

In Manhattan's Central Park, 30 women staged an anti-war protest Friday morning by shedding their clothes and lying naked in the snow, arranging themselves so that their bodies spelled out the words "No Bush."

"This was exhilarating," declared Heidi Cuppari, 29, owner of a Manhattan pet supply company. "I was thinking about all the people who are going to be in war in hellish situations and I thought I could take a little snow."

About seven inches of snow fell on Washington, DC, Philadelphia and Baltimore, causing region-wide airport and rail delays. In the New York area, LaGuardia Airport and the Newark Airport reported more than 140 cancellations.

All of Philadelphia's schools and many city offices shut down. In Maryland, the snow caused 24 school districts to close.

The snow tapered off by afternoon. *AP*

A MAN walks a dog through Central Park in New York early Feb. 7 as a snowstorm moved through the area. Total snowfall in the city was expected to range from three to six inches. REUTERS

Nations vote 18 judges into ICC

UNITED NATIONS—In successive rounds of voting over four days, 18 judges were elected to preside over the world's first permanent criminal court, created to try perpetrators of mass crimes when nations fail to act.

The voting by 85 of the 88 nations that have ratified the court's statutes went to 33 ballots until the last judge was elected late on Friday, Frenchman Claude Jorda, the president of the ad hoc war UN crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Seven of the 18 judges are women—from Ireland, Mali, Brazil, Ghana, Costa Rica, Latvia as well as South African Judge Navanethem Pillay, president of the UN tribunal for genocide in Rwanda.

With the United States boycotting the birth of the tribunal. European and other Western nations, which ended up with seven judges, will be footing the bill for the International Criminal Court.

The court will be formally inaugurated on Mar. 11 in The Hague when Netherlands Queen Beatrix swears in the judges. But the key task of naming a prosecutor does not begin until Apr. 21 and a proper functioning staff is not expected to be in place until the end of the summer.

The ICC, based on the principles of Nazi war crime tribunals at the end of World War II, is to prosecute individuals accused of the world's most heinous atrocities—genocide, war crimes and other gross human rights violations.

A total of 139 nations have signed and 88 of them have ratified the treaty creating the tribunal. Afghanistan is expected to become the 89th country to ratify. *Reuters*

Cambodians rush into Thailand as border reopens after riots

BANGKOK—Thousands of Cambodians rushed through reopened checkpoints into Thailand on Saturday to stock up on food and everyday goods, scarce in border areas since Thailand sealed the frontier last week after riots in Phnom Penh.

Thailand, furious that anti-Thai rioters torched the Thai embassy in Phnom Penh and sacked a dozen Thai-owned businesses, last week closed the 800-km frontier, downgraded diplomatic relations and halted economic cooperation with Cambodia.

But Thailand decided to reopen checkpoints after Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong visited Bangkok this week to explain Phnom Penh's efforts to find those responsible.

"Cambodians are having a hard time finding food and we have to let them in for humanitarian reasons," Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said in a weekly radio address on Saturday.

Cambodians crossing into the Thai province of Sa Kaew, 300 km of Bangkok, said they had not met any hostility from Thais.

"I'm very happy that the checkpoints are open again. Food and goods are so expensive in Cambodia," a young Cambodian woman told Reuters.

"I don't know much about what happened in Phnom Penh, but we don't have any problems with Thai people here." *Reuters*

Bomb blast rocks exclusive Bogota club; 20 people killed, 100 injured

BOGOTA, Colombia—A powerful bomb rocked an exclusive club in Bogota Friday night, killing more than 20 people, leaving about 100 injured and setting the 10-story building afire.

Bogota Mayor Antanas Mockus said a theory that the explosion may have been an accident had been discarded by investigators, who determined that explosives caused the blast.

It was the worst terrorist attack in Colombia since Pablo Escobar's Medellin drug cartel unleashed a wave of terrorism in the 1980s and early 1990s against Colombia's cities in an effort to avoid extradition to the United States.

The blast showered bricks and mortar onto a busy boulevard, caving in the roofs of cars that were passing by. Victims were taken to several hospitals. There was no immediate total casualty count.

Leftist rebels have recently begun bringing their four-decade war from the countryside into the cities, but no group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack on the 10-story El Nogal Club in north Bogota—which is frequented by politicians and business executives.

The blast was heard for kilometers Bogota, a city of 7 million.

"It was a huge explosion. I thought an airplane had crashed outside," said Luis Moreno, who lives across the street from the club on Seventh Avenue and whose apartment building's windows were shattered.

The explosion blew out walls of two stories of an interior parking garage at the club, raining rubble onto the street below.

Paramedics were seen giving CPR to a man lying amid the rubble.

"We were having dinner when the bomb went off," a man, his face blackened from smoke, said as his wife was carried away on a stretcher by paramedics. Scores of people stumbled from the wrecked building, many with their faces streaked with blood.

Jorge Velandia, who works at the club's mini-golf course, said the blast opened up a hole in one of the floors, and people tumbled through.

Several children were among the injured. itnesses had said several children were to put on a ballet show at the club Friday night. Their fate was not immediately known. *AP*

AN INJURED man is assisted after the car bomb explosion in Bogota on Feb. 7. REUTERS

Images of Columbia's descent do not immediately solve puzzle

WASHINGTON—US military images of the space shuttle Columbia returning to Earth before its broke into fiery pieces, killing seven astronauts, do not show any immediate reasons for the disaster, National Aeronautics and Space Administration said Friday.

High-definition images taken by the Air Force in New Mexico about a minute before it broke up over Texas show that the left inboard wing is jagged near where it begins to intersect the fuselage, according to Aviation Week and Space Technology and NBC television, which cited sources close to the investigation.

"The ragged edge on the left leading edge, indicates that either a small structural breach—such as a crack—occurred, allowing the 1370 Celsius reentry heating to erode additional structure there, or that a small portion of the leading edge fell off at that location," an Aviation Week article said.

"Either way, the damage affected the vehicle's flying qualities as well as allowed hot gases to flow into critical wing structure—a fatal combination." NBC, quoting a source familiar with the investigation, said there was "heavy structural damage on the left wing near the fuselage." But Nasa space shuttle program manager Ron Dittemore drew no such conclusion publicly, telling a news conference that studying the photos was "challenging and difficult and proceeding slowly." He said the images were provided by the Air Force Starfire telescope at Kirkland Air Force Base in New Mexico.

Dittemore showed one of the photos which showed the edges of the shuttle blurred because it had been enlarged so much.

"We have looked at it during the week. And it's not tremendously revealing to us yet," he said.

"We are asking experts to do an evaluation of the photo to see if there's anything in this particular photo that would help us understand if there was anything wrong on the left wing." The Nasa earlier confirmed investigators were studying critical video and photo images of Columbia's last moments and that a "significant" part of one of the wings had been found.

"We have recovered a partial wing leading edge RCC panel, that's reinforced carbon-carbon panel," Dittemore said. "It's 26 to 27 inches long with 18 inches of wing structure still attached. We are still trying to determine whether or not it is the left or the right wing." *AFP*

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Cordillera folk seek help in war to save RP veggies

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—As Malacañang echoes Washington's hard and tough stance on Iraq, Cordillera folk and their leaders are calling for the government's and every Filipino's sense of patriotism in fighting another war in the home front—the battle against unfair competition in agriculture.

"No one can question the loyalty of a Filipino to her motherland, but a Filipino's loyalty to foreign investors and foreign competitors can be questioned," read a recent multisectoral petition from Mt. Province, which was addressed to the Tariff Commission.

"Giving privilege to them (foreign competitors) is not only unpatriotic, it also betrays the public trust," it said.

Signed by sectoral leaders and local government officials led by Mt. Province Gov. Sario Malinias, the petition said this was the time for concerned government officials to help save the Igorot vegetable farmer from becoming extinct as legally and illegally imported vegetables threaten to kill a major job-generating industry.

In Mt. Province alone, 57,000 or 77 percent of the province's 74,000 people are engaged in the cultivation of commercial vegetables, the petitioners said, citing figures from the Department of Labor and Employment.

Benguet also has 69,000 farmers, most of them tending commercial vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, cabbage, beans, bell pepper, broccoli, lettuce, sweet peas and radish.

Farmers, local government officials, and non-government and people's organization leaders and members from Mt. Province, who signed the petition, proposed to raise duty rates for various imported vegetables to help protect the local vegetable industry from unfair foreign competition.

The petitioners suggested an 80-percent duty rate for "in-quota" fresh or chilled potatoes or 100 percent increase from the current 40-percent duty rate.

"In-quota" refers to the volume, which government allows to be imported based on demand.

They also pushed for a 90-percent tariff rate for "out-quota" potatoes, which is also almost double the current 50-percent rate. "Out-quota" refers to the excess of what government allows to be imported.

The petitioners also proposed an 83-percent duty rate for cauliflower and broccoli, 80 percent for cabbage and lettuce, 44 percent for carrots, 100 percent for "other vegetables," fresh or chilled, 54 percent for mixed frozen vegetables, 80 percent for prepared or preserved vegetables and fruits, which include frozen potatoes, fruit-peel and other parts of plants.

The current duty rates for "other" and "mixed" vegetables are only 7 percent.

But imported vegetables declared as "other" or "mixed" always turn out to be vegetables such as potatoes and carrots, which should have been imposed higher tariff rates, said Arbee Talastas, chair of the Mt. Province vegetable anti-smuggling committee. She cited the confiscated items at the customs bureau in Manila.

FIRST CALL LEONCIO BALBIN JR.
Ex-governor Luis "Chavit" Singson tests the new telecommunications facility in Ilocos Sur which promises to provide more Ilocanos with better, more efficient communications services. Singson has quit politics but remains a much sought after figure in his province and elsewhere.

'Lumads' flee homes amid Army, reb clashes

BAGANGA, Davao Oriental—At least 90 Mandaya lumad families from the hinterland barangays of Batawan and Binondo fled their homes since Feb. 1 for fear of being caught in the crossfire between government soldiers and communist rebels.

The two villages were sites of heavy fighting between the two forces, where at least five New People's Army rebels and two government soldiers were killed.

Four soldiers were also wounded in the clashes.

"We don't want to be caught in the crossfire that is why we decided to leave our villages leaving behind our farm animals," Luisa Sampan, 56, said.

"We appeal to the government and rebel forces to spare our villages so we could live a peaceful life," Sampan added.

A still unidentified boy was killed in the encounter in Barangay Batawan.

But Maj. Nixon Fortes, chief of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, said the boy was an NPA rebel.

"He was one of the many young recruits of the communist rebels. My men saw many young fighters of the NPA during the firefight," Fortes said.

The local disaster office here said it has already extended food assistance to the evacuees.

Lovely Bejis, chief of the local Red Cross, said they were also ready to help the evacuees but "only come in when all the food supply being distributed by the local government shall have been exhausted."

The evacuees are temporarily seeking shelter in Baganga Poblacion, the provincial disaster coordinating council said in its report. But their number is expected to rise as the military continues with its operations.

Army troops coming from the 4th Special Forces Company based in the capital town of Mati have been deployed to Baganga as reinforcement, according to the military. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Head of DENR appeals for plans against pollution

MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan—Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun on Friday ordered officials of this town and nearby Valenzuela City to draw up plans to curb air and water pollution reportedly brought about by an open dumpsite here.

Gozun, on the invitation of Meycauayan Mayor Eduardo Allarilla, inspected the Caingin dumpsite here to determine the real source of air and water pollutants in this town.

Alarilla disputed reports that the garbage piled in the dumpsite contributes to water and air pollution here.

He claimed that wastewater from the industrial sites in nearby Valenzuela City flow into the Meycauayan River and damage river resources. He said the stench of chemicals in the river is hazardous to the health of residents living in Barangay Veinte Reales, the nearest village to Valenzuela.

Gozun said it is possible that solid and liquid wastes from the Valenzuela flow down to this town because the city's location is higher than Meycauayan.

"We treat the garbage and we fill the dumpsite with soil so the stench from the dumpsite would be lessened. That stench is coming from wastes from Valenzuela that flow into the Meycauayan River," Alarilla said.

But lawyer Nestor Nicolas, an aide of Valenzuela Mayor Jose Emmanuel Carlos, said the city is using a sanitary landfill and the city's wastes do not affect Meycauayan's rivers.

Gozun asked the officials to stop blaming each other and instead come out with plans to solve the problem.

Alarilla told Gozun that the construction of the town's sanitary landfill would be finished in October. He also said Carlos had agreed to lend to his town the city's dredging equipment to clean and dredge the Meycauayan River. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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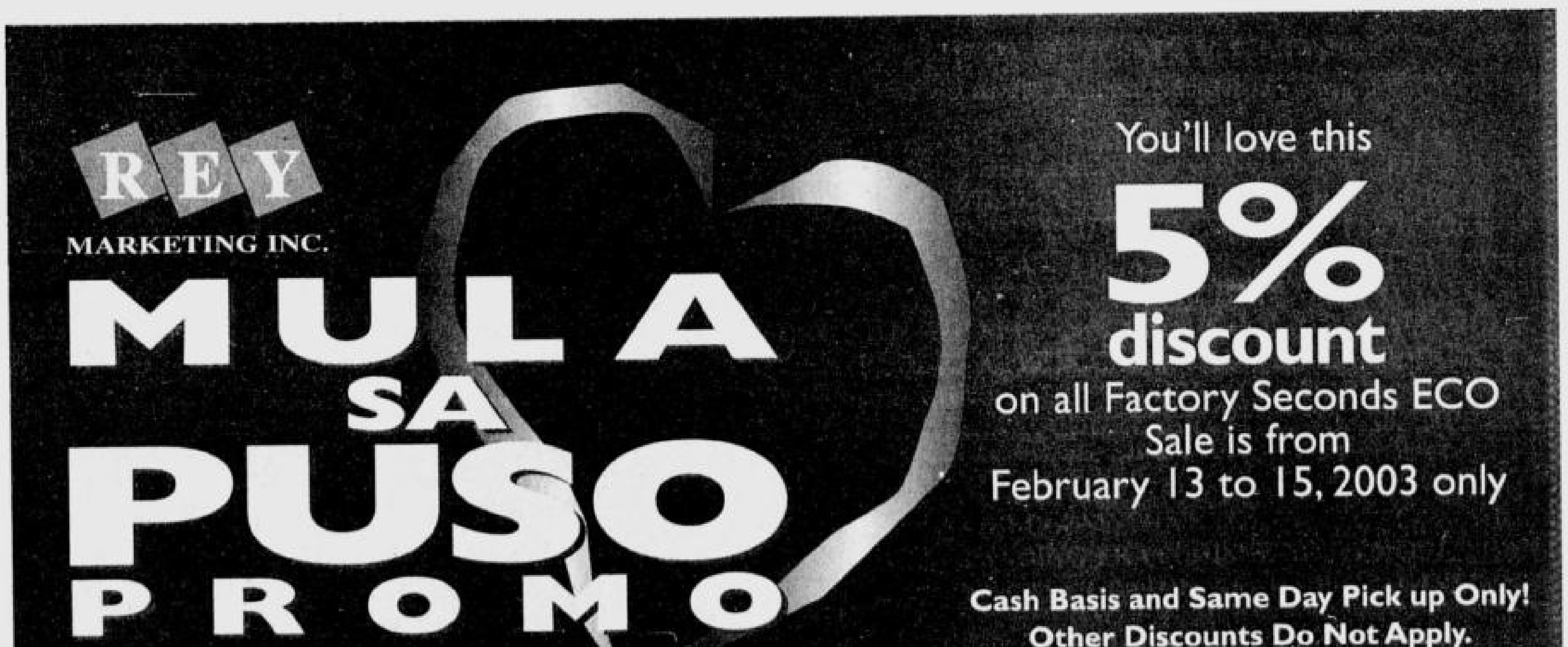

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Cops discover drugs buried in homes in Urdaneta City

URDANETA CITY—Illegal drug dealers here have found a way to hide drugs from the police—bury it in their backyards.

Supt. Raul Petrasanta, this city's police chief, said the latest "drug excavation" he and Supt. Rosueto Ricaforte, provincial police intelligence officer, conducted was around the backyard of one Bulat Lumabao in Barangay Camantiles here.

Petrasanta said they dug around the yard of Lumabao and found 34 plastic sachets of shabu weighing about 53.7 grams.

The police also dug out illegal drug paraphernalia and 150 pieces of empty plastic sachets around Lumabao's house. The sachets were believed to be for use in packing shabu.

Lumabao, who police said is a known illegal drug dealer in the city, was not in his house when the search was conducted.

Executive Judge Meliton Emuslan of the regional trial court here issued the search warrant for the search in Lumabao's home.

In October last year, policemen also dug up 129 grams of shabu near a creek in Barangay Camantiles. Petrasanta said at least 15 grams of shabu were also dug up around two houses in Barangay Camantiles in December.

In Angeles City, police confiscated at least 100 grams of shabu worth P1 million from a suspected drug trader in Barangay Balibago on Wednesday.

Senior Supt. Jaime Restua, Angeles police chief, identified the suspect as Apon Sultan, 28, from Marawi City. Sultan was arrested after selling shabu to a policeman who posed as a buyer. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, with a report from Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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THIRD PLACE
(ESSAY WRITING CONTEST)
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September 5, 2002

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Filipinos ignore war threat, flock to MidEast jobs

By Jolene R. Bulambot and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Just as the government is busy preparing an evacuation plan for Filipinos who could be caught in a war in the event the United States attacks Iraq, many overseas Filipinos workers (OFWs) still choose to be deployed to the Middle East, with many more waiting in the wings for a chance of landing jobs in the Arab region.

From Cebu alone, 447 Cebuanos flew to the Middle East last month, according to records obtained from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) in Central Visayas (Region 7).

POEA officials in the region also expressed surprise that there were no inquiries or requests for repatriation made by OFWs working in the Middle East or even by their relatives, unlike what the office experienced during the 1991 Gulf War.

"We are surprised because compared to the Gulf War, we were flooded with requests for assistance for the repatriation of our OFWs. So far, with this threat that war may erupt in Iraq anytime, we only have one inquiry but that same OFW insisted on going back to the Middle East late last month," according to Evelia Durato, POEA Region 7 officer in charge.

Records

According to the POEA records, of the 447 OFWs who left for the Middle East from Jan. 1 to 31, 66 were nurses while the rest were mechanics, middle pipe fitters, teachers, drillers, engineers, welders, computer programmers and analysts.

The statistics showed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia received the most deployed workers with a total of 209, followed by the United Arabs Emirates with 199, and 12 each bound for Oman and Bahrain, respectively. There were eight Cebuanos who departed to Kuwait last month, four in Qatar, two in Lebanon and one in Iran.

Durato said their data were based on the records of OFWs who have processed their papers in Cebu and who have exited through the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

She said that based on the records from their central office in Manila, there were 49 OFWs in Iraq as of January to November 2002 but none were from Cebu.

Kuwait

At least 24,500 Filipinos are working in Kuwait, according to the same report, while more than a thousand OFWs were deployed to Kuwait's neighboring countries.

The tension in the Middle East has not also discouraged the hundreds of job seekers in Eastern Visayas who continue to flock to the POEA regional office in Tacloban City to ask about job vacancies in the troubled region.

Rosario Gervoso, POEA director for Eastern Visayas, said her office received at least five phone calls daily and five walk-in clients, all inquiring about possible employment in the Middle East.

"The tense situation in the Middle East does not seem to affect them," she told the INQUIRER.

Gervoso said they continued to entertain these job seekers as her office has yet to receive word from the POEA central office, calling off the recruitment of jobs in the Middle East.

She also noted that there was a slight increase of inquiries in January.

Based on their records, the POEA here processed 96 applications in January or an increase of 30 compared to the 66 applications processed in December.

Preferred destination

The same record showed that 43 of these applicants preferred to work in Saudi Arabia. The other preferred destinations were Oman, Bahrain, Libya, United Arab Emirates, Israel and Kuwait.

Gervoso said the number of applicants from Eastern Visayas could be "much, much higher" because there were also job seekers from the region who sent their applications either to Cebu or Manila.

Based on the POEA records, at least 10,000 overseas Filipino workers are from Eastern Visayas.

Personally, Gervoso admitted that she did not favor sending OFWs to work in the Middle East. But there was nothing she could do about it, she added.

"You know, this is what I called a 'feeling of desperation' among them. They rather chose to work in the Middle East and risk their lives than live and work here in the country without any guarantee of (earning a decent living)," she said.

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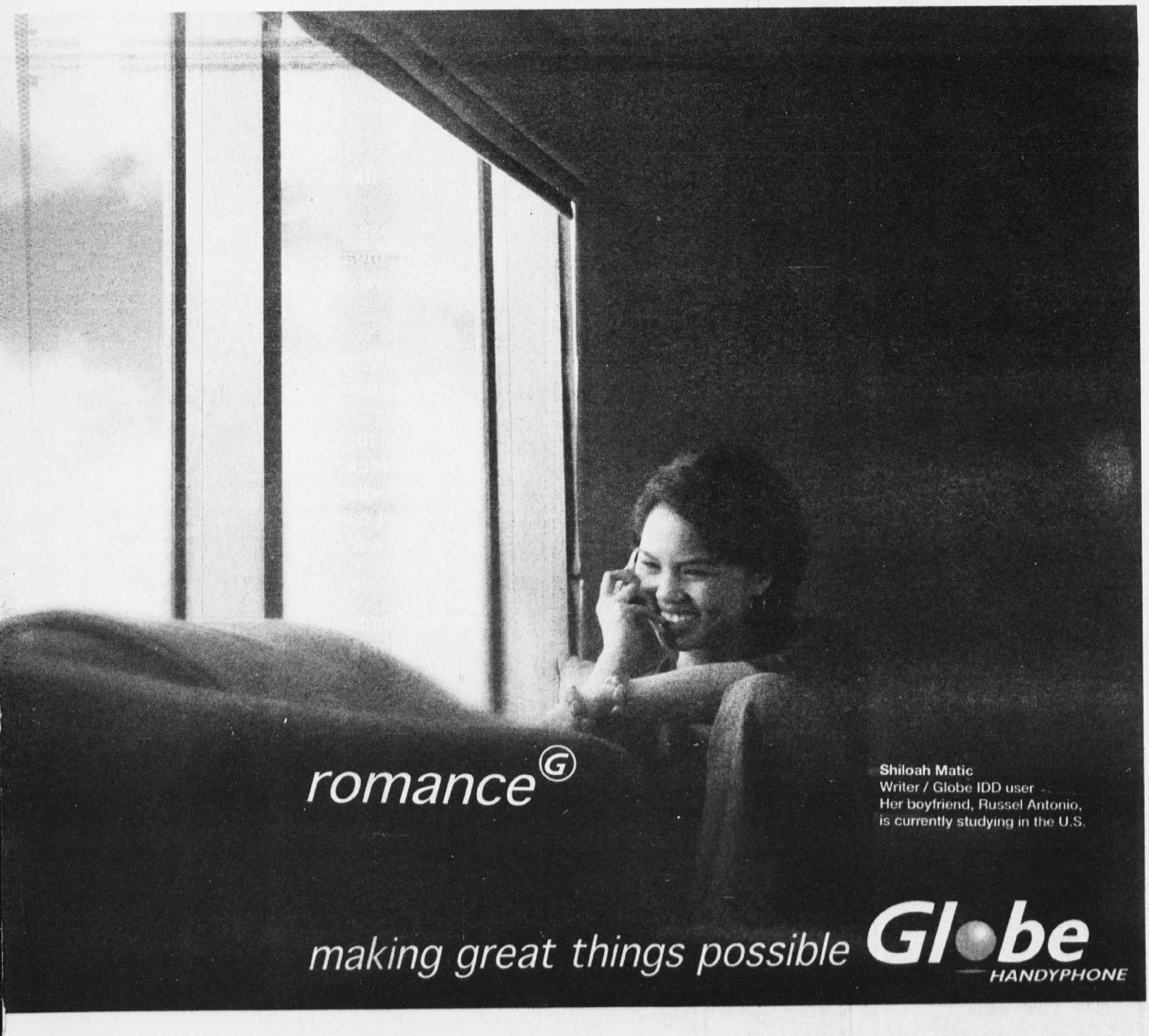
romance

Shiloah Matic
Writer / Globe IDD user
Her boyfriend, Russel Antonio, is currently studying in the U.S.

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ROUNDUP

Balloon fest

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—Some 20 hot-air balloonists from various countries will participate in the 8th Hot-Air Balloon Festival at the Omni Aviation complex inside the special economic zone from Feb. 7 until today. Ronaldo Tiotuico, Central Luzon director of the Department of Tourism, said a special balloon that looks like a giant newspaper from Korea will be among the propane-powered airships that will fly the skies. Other events include exhibit flights of radio-controlled aircraft models and motorized gliders, paragliding, military fighter jet and helicopter exhibition, skydiving, and kite flying. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Homicide

ROXAS, Isabela—A policeman from Mallig town was charged with homicide for the killing of a former New People's Army rebel in Barangay San Placido here. Chief Insp. Amorsolo Dela Cruz, Roxas police chief, said Ronilo Mariano, 36, shot SP01 Edwin Partible of Mallig police thrice while Partible was walking home. When Mariano missed the shots, Partible retaliated and killed the former rebel, police said. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gold taxes

A CONGRESSMAN yesterday asked the government to collect the correct taxes from gold operations on Mt. Diwalwal. Rep. Prospero Pichay said in a statement that collecting the correct taxes from gold mining on Diwalwal would open up a rich source of revenue for the cash-strapped administration of President Macapagal Arroyo. Pichay said in 2000, P2.95 billion worth of Diwalwal gold was sold to a Davao station of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas but from 1985 to 1998, P36 billion worth of gold was sold to the same station. "The unaccounted 65 percent of gold sold for those years alone translates to approximately P11.12 billion lost in value-added taxes," said the statement.

Escape foiled

DAVAO CITY—A policeman early Saturday foiled an escape try by prisoners of the San Pedro police station here. P02 Jeremias Bustamante said he was on his way to the toilet at the back of the station at around 1:55 a.m. when he saw hands coming out of the prison wall. When he checked on it, the inmates were almost finished making a hole on the prison's concrete wall. The prisoners used a concrete nail attached to a piece of wood and a fist-sized stone to make the hole. Inmates Alex Toryisido and Eugene Dalubatan, both accused of theft, allegedly masterminded the escape attempt. Toryisido said he planned the jailbreak because he was bored inside prison. The prisoners started breaking the wall Friday noon, a time when there were no visitors. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Landslides

DAVAO CITY—At least two people were hurt after landslides, triggered by heavy rains, hit Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley on Sunday evening, reports reaching here on Tuesday said. The Monkayo police identified the victims as Chilen Atong and Abelardo Bejar. Atong and Bejar were rescued by elements of the Task Force Diwalwal and were brought to a nearby hospital. Authorities also said that the landslides destroyed several houses in the area. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Smuggled rice

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Bureau of Customs had ordered the seizure of 1,260 bags of smuggled rice intercepted by Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) operatives here on Jan. 25. Lowell Medija, customs collector here, told reporters that he issued a warrant of seizure after the owner failed to show import permits. "It came out in our investigation that the owner of the smuggled goods is not included in the list of farmers accredited by the NFA (National Food Authority) to import," Medija said. The customs official said it was the second time that a Cotabato City-based Kutangbato Conventional Multi-Purpose Cooperative (KCMPC) shipped in imported rice without proper documents. In November last year, the CIDG seized 3,800 bags of Malaysian rice worth P3.8 million owned by the same cooperative. The cargo, loaded in five 20-foot WG&A container vans, was on its way to Makar wharf when intercepted by the CIDG elements. The drivers of the trucks showed a copy of cargo manifest showing that the items on board were cornstarch. But when CIDG operatives checked the contents of the container vans what they saw were imported rice from Malaysia. The grains came from Laboan, Malaysia and were shipped to the country via Cotabato City. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PAINFUL LESSON

Pangasinan farmers evade China competition

STA. MARIA, Pangasinan—Farmers in Pangasinan have learned a painful lesson in agricultural economy: never produce any crop or raise any animal that is produced and raised in China.

Edmundo Mendoza, secretary-general of the 120-member Federation of Pangasinan Farmers Cooperatives, said the seemingly uncaring attitude of the government toward farmers is displacing them from their position as major food producers.

"The government allows importation of agricultural produce from other countries, especially China, but without giving assistance to the local farmers to increase their productivity. We have the capability to produce more, but we get no assistance from the government so we lag behind in production," Mendoza said.

He said Pangasinan farmers have tried producing other crops like peanuts, soybeans and sweet potato, but ended up frustrated because produce from China and Taiwan, which are cheaper, always find their way into the local market.

Mendoza cited their experience when the federation partnered with a Korean company to produce sweet potato starch in Calasiao town in the 1990s.

The farmers initially did well, and at the height of production, they were planting some 9,000 hectares of agricultural land to sweet potato that they sold to the Korean-owned factory.

A farmer, who sells sweet potato at P2 a kilogram to the plant, was earning as much as P20,000 for each hectare, a good income compared to their P8,000 a hectare income from planting corn, Mendoza said.

But in 1998, he said China started producing sweet potato starch, too, and was selling it at $400 a ton while the local sweet potato cost $540 a ton.

"So our Korean partners said, 'Sorry guys, we cannot compete with China.' And they shut down the plant," Mendoza said.

He also cited their experience in growing peanuts. He said they were selling peanuts at P40 a kg but when peanuts from Taiwan entered the country, it was sold at almost half the price at P23 a kg.

The federation also entered into an agreement with Nestle Philippines for the farmers to supply soybeans to the food company. But cheaper imported soybeans came and Nestle decided to abandon the local farmers.

Raising animals for food like pigs and chicken is proving to be unviable for farmers because of uncontrolled importation and smuggling of meat, Mendoza said.

The farmers, however, are not giving up and are looking for crops that cannot be imported.

"We have to look for crops that cannot be imported, like mushroom, because of its very short shelf life. We would also try to venture into cut flowers," Mendoza said.

He said local farmers could not compete with the prices of goods from China because of lack of infrastructures like farm-to-market roads, high power cost, lack of irrigation facilities and lack of post-harvest facilities.

He added that lack of roads result in high transport cost, while lack of irrigation facilities forces the farmers to use shallow tube water pumps run by electricity. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

UNCERTAINTY RYAN LIM
There's just apprehension on the face of this Filipino fisherman who was deported from Indonesia for working there without permits. The fisherman is among 49 Filipinos who were deported by Indonesian authorities and who arrived at the Davao City airport Feb. 6.

Armed robbers give cops the chase, commuters the scare in East Samar

By Cyrain G. Cabuenas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—When kids play "Cops and Robbers" the police always nail the crooks. This is not so in this province.

For some six months now, a group of gun-toting men has left commuters and police helpless, turning travel through the 90-kilometer main coastal highway from Basey to Quinapondan, Eastern Samar into a scary experience.

About 200 vehicles pass through the coastal highway, which is the main road that connects the southern towns of Eastern Samar with Leyte, the main trading partner of the province.

Commercial and passenger vehicles have started to travel in tandem three months ago to protect themselves against these robbers.

"We always try our best to catch these bandits, but when we get to the crime scene they are nowhere to be found," said Supt. Victoriano R. Naces, deputy provincial director.

The remote town boundaries of Hernani, Quinapondan, and Balangiga are the frequent robbery sites.

Police blotters revealed 13 unsolved holdup cases over the past six months and a number of incidents have not been recorded.

"What's the use in going to the authorities? It's obvious, they can't do anything at all," a victim who refused to be identified said.

"Our police heads should see to it that these petty robbers are caught soon if they don't want to put a bad name to their uniforms," Eastern Samar Gov. Clotilde Japson Salazar added.

Last Dec. 5, 2002 at about 11 a.m., seven unidentified men donning black bonnets and armed with two M-14 Armalite rifles, a .45 cal. pistol, shotguns, and four .38 cal. "paltik" guns held up three vehicles in Barangay Cansumangkay, barely a kilometer away from Balangiga town.

The robbers took off with P83,000 in cash and checks, three Seiko diver's watches and assorted clothing.

An Indian national, Rejiner Singh, managed to pass through the robbers' wooden barricades last July 20, 2002 in Barangay Canciledes, 2 km from Hernani town. However, the robbers opened fire and he was hit in the left thigh.

Oscar Esal, on the other hand, was shot in the left arm when he tried to evade the robbers in the same place on Sept. 24, 2002.

The latest incident happened two days after Christmas when robbers held up three vehicles in Barangay Margarita, Quinapondan town, barely two kilometers from Buenavista Police Station's Mobile Unit.

"If the local government will give us more equipment and intelligence fund, then perhaps we may be able to get rid of these bandits," some police officers said.

Subic execs turn over land for livelihood

SUBIC, Zambales—Officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) have turned over to a local community the rights to develop a 100-hectare land in Redondo Peninsula, two years after the area was vacated by oil firm Shell following the completion of its Malampaya concrete gravity structures (CGS) here.

Under the Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA), the SBMA, which has the exclusive rights in developing the site, has acknowledged the contributions of the members of the Agusuhin Community Reforestation Association Inc. (ACRA) of Sitio Agusuhin in protecting the area's natural environment, particularly its forest.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said the project would provide various livelihood projects to the 40 families of Sitio Agusuhin.

"This project is for the people who cannot be employed in the factory but are still affected by the Subic Bay Freeport, particularly the fishermen and farmers," Payumo said.

CBFMA holders, in return, have the obligation to protect the remaining watershed of the Redondo Peninsula. As environmental and natural resource officers, the beneficiaries agreed to protect the orchard plantation from forest fires and illegal logging.

Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. (PSFI) and Shell Exploration BV (SPEX) have been supporting the development and protection of the reforestation and plantation site since 2000.

Residents now plant fast-growing crops in between mango trees. They are also allowed to harvest and sell the fruits.

CBFMA holders will be required to implement a community management plan, a resource use plan, and work plan. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Man shot dead after testifying in perjury case against wife

SAN FERNANDO CITY—A man who had just testified in a perjury case that he filed against his wife was shot dead by a lone gunman Wednesday afternoon before terrified onlookers near a court here.

Amado Balangue, 39, of Caba, La Union, was walking with his lawyer's driver toward their van when the gunman approached them and shot him in the abdomen. When Balangue slumped on the pavement, the gunman shot him in the head.

Balangue died before reaching the Ilocos Training Regional Medical Center here.

His assailant fled on a motorcycle with no plate number and driven by another man who served as a lookout.

Supt. Efren Javier, San Fernando police chief, said the gunman, who was wearing a gray shirt and a baseball cap, ran to a nearby house where a companion was waiting.

Javier said the gunman was armed with two handguns, one of which was a .45 cal. pistol used in the killing. After shooting Balangue, the gunman fired in the air to discourage pursuers.

Javier said the police tried to get a statement from Balangue's wife but she refused on the advice of her lawyer.

The shooting happened on a busy street where a beauty parlor, several eateries, a school and a city government building are located. The scene is more than 10 meters from the city police station and the City Hall.

Judge Eugenio Dacumos, who was hearing Balangue's case, said Balangue's estranged wife Cecilia, of Alicia, Isabela, filed a case to declare her husband dead before a regional trial court here in 2001.

The case was dismissed in February 2002 when Balangue appeared during the hearing, prompting him to file a perjury case. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Olongapo court stops new EO on second-hand vehicle papers

THE OLONGAPO City Regional Trial Court has stopped two government agencies from enforcing an executive order that required importers of second-hand vehicles to obtain clearances from the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue before they could register the vehicles.

In a five-page ruling dated Feb. 3, Judge Eliodoro Ubiadas of the Olongapo RTC ordered the Department of Finance and Department of Transportation and Communications to stop requiring the importers from getting customs and BIR clearances for imported second-hand vehicles that are not covered by the Motor Vehicle Development Program.

The ruling was made in connection with a complaint filed by a group of auctioneers led by Asia International Auctioneers Inc. and Estanislao Cesa Jr. and Marc Raymond Cesa, buyers of imported second hand vehicles.

The complainants petitioned the court to declare Executive Order No. 142, which laid down the requirement for customs and BIR clearances, as unconstitutional.

Judge Ubiadas said that without passing judgment on and giving merit to the complainants' argument that the EO was unconstitutional, "the court is concerned on the effect" of a section of the Tarriff and Customs Code on the registration of vehicles.

Ubiadas said the complainants' petition for an injunction in the enforcement of the EO had basis because the vehicles in the complainants' possession were scheduled for registration renewal in January.

The complainants, the judge said in his ruling, presented documents showing full payment of customs taxes and duties and that the registration of their vehicles was made in compliance with Land Transportation Office and customs rules that existed prior to the issuance of the EO.

ENVIRONMENT CITATION PHOTO FROM PGI
Officials of the Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI) led by Steve Funk (third from left), director of operations management system, and Luli Heras de Leon (third from right), executive vice president, present a citation to Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun (fourth from left) for the DENR's help in developing indigenous energy sources.

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INQUIRER*Mindanao*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** » *Bureau Chief* **Nico A. Alconaba**

The phony reasons for war

KUSOG

Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado Jr., OMI

THE IMPENDING war against Iraq sends jitters to the world in general but more particularly to the Islamic community. George W. Bush seemingly from day one of his tenure as US President has a fixation against Saddam Hussein. He rides high following the national and worldwide rage against the terrorists' attacks on New York City and Washington DC. No doubt, these attacks were sins against humanity and people of goodwill need to band together to prevent these happening again.

Slogans

But preventing acts of terrorism is different from waging a unilateral war against a perceived enemy. Muslim friends and I cannot understand why suddenly there is a shift in language from "war against terror" to "war against weapons of mass destruction." Suddenly Osama bin Laden disappeared from the news and Saddam enters as public enemy no. 1. The CNN and Fox news slogan "war against terror" gives way to "war against weapons of mass destruction."

People do not recognize the shift in language. Media have become ready tools in making whatever "inventible" connection between bin Laden and Saddam. What remains unsaid is the fact that the result of the so-called "war against terror" post-Afghan War is still ambiguous. Osama bin Laden is nowhere to be found, the Taliban leaders disappeared in thin air, and the Afghanistan political situation remains intractable notwithstanding the world's support to President Karzai. The differing ethnic warlords are still entrenched and continue to rule supreme in their turfs despite the new government in Kabul.

Phony

The US is amassing the biggest military contingents since the Gulf War ready to act, attack and occupy Iraq unilaterally and arbitrarily with or without UN sanction. The whole anti-Iraq campaign bordering on paranoia sounds really phony following North Korea's reactivation of its nuclear program.

On the one hand, the US is bent in its almost fanatical war against Iraq. On the other hand, the same US government is adopting a diplomatic policy in on North Korea, a self-confessed builder of weapons of mass destruction.

The contradiction of policies is not only obvious in the different approaches on Iraq and North Korea but in the treatment of other nations with similar weapons. What is the rule of the game when it comes to weapons of mass destruction . . . ? Friends have all the right to pile up and stock weapons of mass destruction? Suspected enemies have no right?

The Muslims in the South often ask whether there is truth to Samuel Huntington's thesis that contemporary clashes in the world are "civilizational," or clashes between civilizations. This, of course, is interpreted as a clash between the West and Islam. I personally do not subscribe to such thesis simply because I believe in the dialogue of civilizations. Our diversities and differences need not lead to war and clashes.

Questions

They ask the questions about US policies vis-a-vis UN resolutions: Why powerful nations can close their eyes to their friends' wanton violations and disregard of UN resolutions and at the same time become fanatical defender of UN resolution compliance against their perceived enemies? People have always suspected two contradicting rules operating in the world, that is, one for the poor and the weak and another for the rich and powerful. While there is tacit acknowledgement of this contradiction, "decent" and "civilized" nations try to preserve and live in the myth of one set of rules for all.

But the impending war against Iraq has exacerbated the contradiction and the whole Saddam Affaire is phony. How much arm-twisting and "creative" intelligence work should be exerted at the UN Security Council? The mere idea of US acting unilaterally and arbitrarily with or without UN erodes the very principle and covenant among nations that have established the UN. It will truly be sad for humanity and the community of nations if the UN becomes a simple footnote to US foreign and defense policies.

Saddam is often presented as the big bully in the Middle East. But when one observes the discussion and politics at the UN Security Council, the world seems to have a bigger and more powerful bully.

It is tragic that in the name of the war on terror, nations are made to answer for the wrongdoing of nationals not their own. Afghani and Iraqi nationals were not the perpetrators of the tragedies in New York and Washington. W. Bush's policy of "shifting war" is making the world more dangerous. Between Saddam and Bush, Bush seems to be more menacing.

Our Muslim confreres as well as all peace-loving people appeal for dialogue. There are more effective and potent approaches to issues in the Middle East. It is important to be consistent and coherent in policies that govern relationships between nations and communities.

I join the Holy Father in enjoining the leaders of the world, and in particular President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, to work for peace. No to war!

Lily: The loss of dignity, sanity of a jobless Filipina

THE SEARCH for a better life on foreign land ends in a boat trip back to a home that offered no hope for jobs for these Filipinos who were deported from Malaysia.

DENNIS SABANGAN

"Laung niya, maghinang ha kadday . . ."

(They said we were to work in a restaurant.)

Lily's face, staring blankly behind the iron bars of a detention center in Tawau, Malaysia, got front-page treatment from the Philippine Daily Inquirer at the height of the deportation controversy. "She has," the report says, "manifested signs of derangement." She was indeed admitted in Ward 9 of the Zamboanga City Medical Center on Oct. 18, 2002 diagnosed as having deep psychosis disorder. This is her story.

Lily, a Chinese Tausug, was recruited as a waitress in Sabah by a Filipina married to a Chinese Malaysian in November 2000. She instead landed as a sex worker in a prostitution den with about 50 other girls, mostly Filipinos. According to her, there were 10 of them in the first batch, most as young as 16 years old.

'Inspection'

Upon arrival, they were asked to strip off their clothes to see if they were still "fresh" and had no stretch marks. Those who passed the "inspection" were made to work in the joint.

Hesitant at first to admit what happened to her in Malaysia, she admitted at some point of the interview that she served as many as seven men in a night, most of them old. Some strategies she used to avoid having sex were to use sanitary napkin to pretend she was having a menstrual period or tell the men not to "touch" her because it's like touching their mother's vagina. She also chose older men who cannot "do" it anymore.

Lily spoke of several batches of recruited girls sold in the casa by "Chong", the Chinese Malaysian.

Lily had a baby in Malaysia but she doesn't know where the child or the father is.

Lily's psychosis manifests in her frequent reference to "Dr. Mahathir" and his promise of giving her a job and half of Malaysia. Many times in the interview, she mentioned "*kahit wala akong* panty" though a Tausug speaker explained that this could be a native expression of being really poor that one doesn't even have underwear. She also claimed that she helped 800 deportees, championing their cause in the detention center that she got whipped ("*latigo*") and boxed, pointing to scars in her arms and back.

Single mother

Lily's travails started when she was taken to Malaysia by an illegal recruiter. A single mother at 19, she was enticed by the promise of a good life in Malaysia, as life in the Philippines was going nowhere. She used to work on commission basis in an insurance company.

After a month in the casa, she went to Rumamera (Red House camp where Filipinos were detained) where by her account, she helped other Filipinas illegally recruited by talking on their behalf so they will not be raped and giving them money so much that she was not able to save. She also mentions a man giving her shabu but her story about this is unclear. It was in Rumamera where she was first jailed. She was sent to another place she cannot recall.

Her accounts of life in jail were muddled; however, she described jail as very small for 50, it was like a bird cage. She said the guards watched all their moves. Even bathing, defecating and urinating were controlled and they were fed only once a day.

Price

She also recounted having a fight with Indonesian girls who were with her in jail because the Indonesians taunted "Filipinas as selling their bodies for 20 ringgits only."

"That's not true," she indignantly claimed, "Filipinas are bright and are well educated. Just my hands alone are worth 200 ringgits!"

Lily returned to Zamboanga in September 2002 in a Navy boat and she has kind words for the Filipino Navy men who fed her.

She was immediately given medicines because she was considered noisy. The medicines, she said, did not do her any good because they made her sleepy.

She likes to return to Sabah but the Department of Foreign Affairs refuse to give her passport. From time to time during the interview she lashed at some government officials including "Arroyo" whom she accuses of "fooling her" and not helping her.

"We will die waiting for help," she said.

A fire that razed her grandmother's house in Baliwasan in October aggravated everything. She has nothing now, she said. "Not even a panty was saved."

Despite all these, and even as she cries her eyes off, Lily is sustained by a deep faith in God whom she says will not abandon her.

Postscript: At the time of this writing, Lily was reported to be alternating between a catatonic state and raging fits as she refused to take the prescribed medicines which she claimed do not do her any good.

Editor's note: Lily was one of those interviewed by the Mindanao Working Group on Reproductive Health, Gender and Sexuality, which started its comprehensive and qualitative research in October last year. The group's findings will be presented at the Grand Astoria Hotel in Zamboanga City in the afternoon of Feb. 10.

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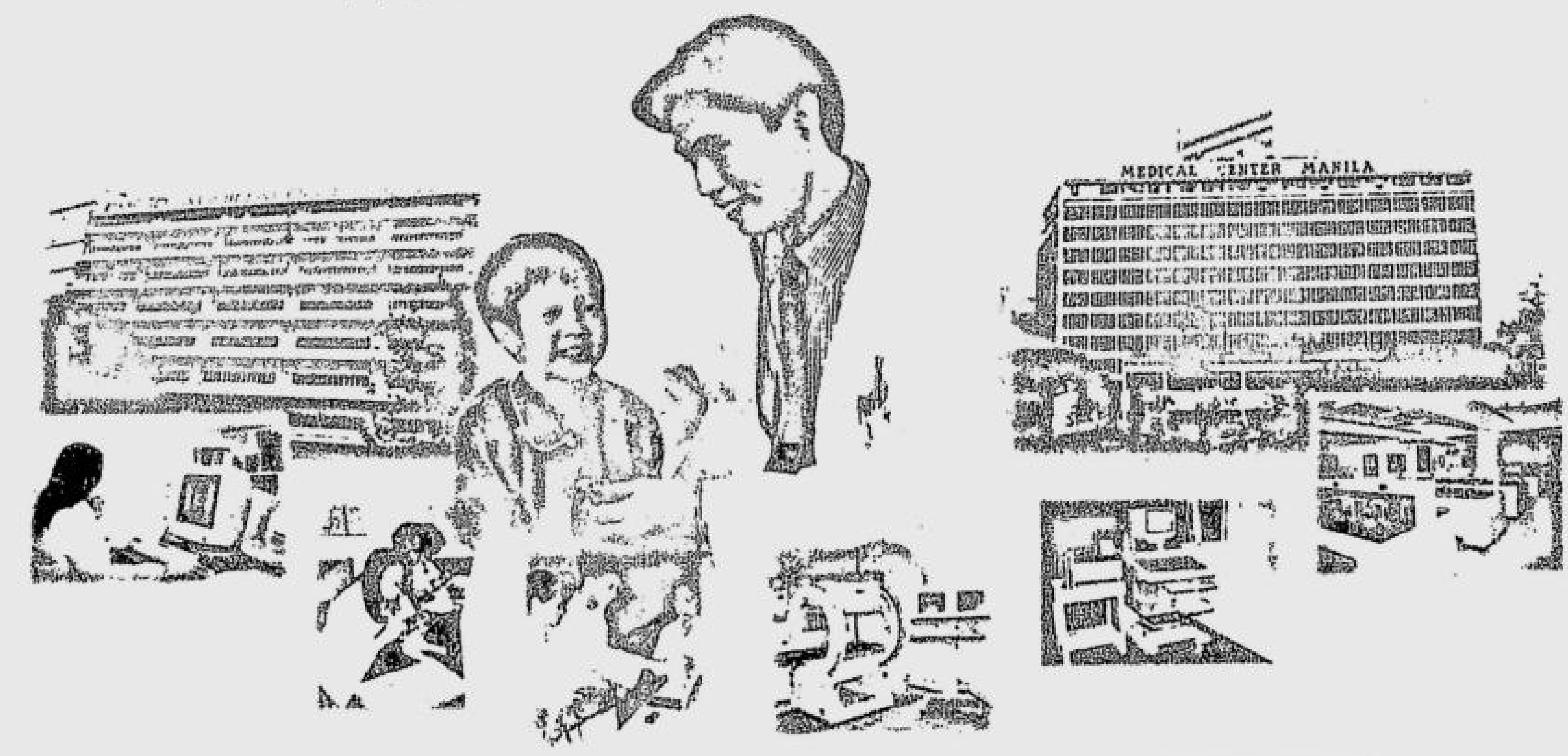

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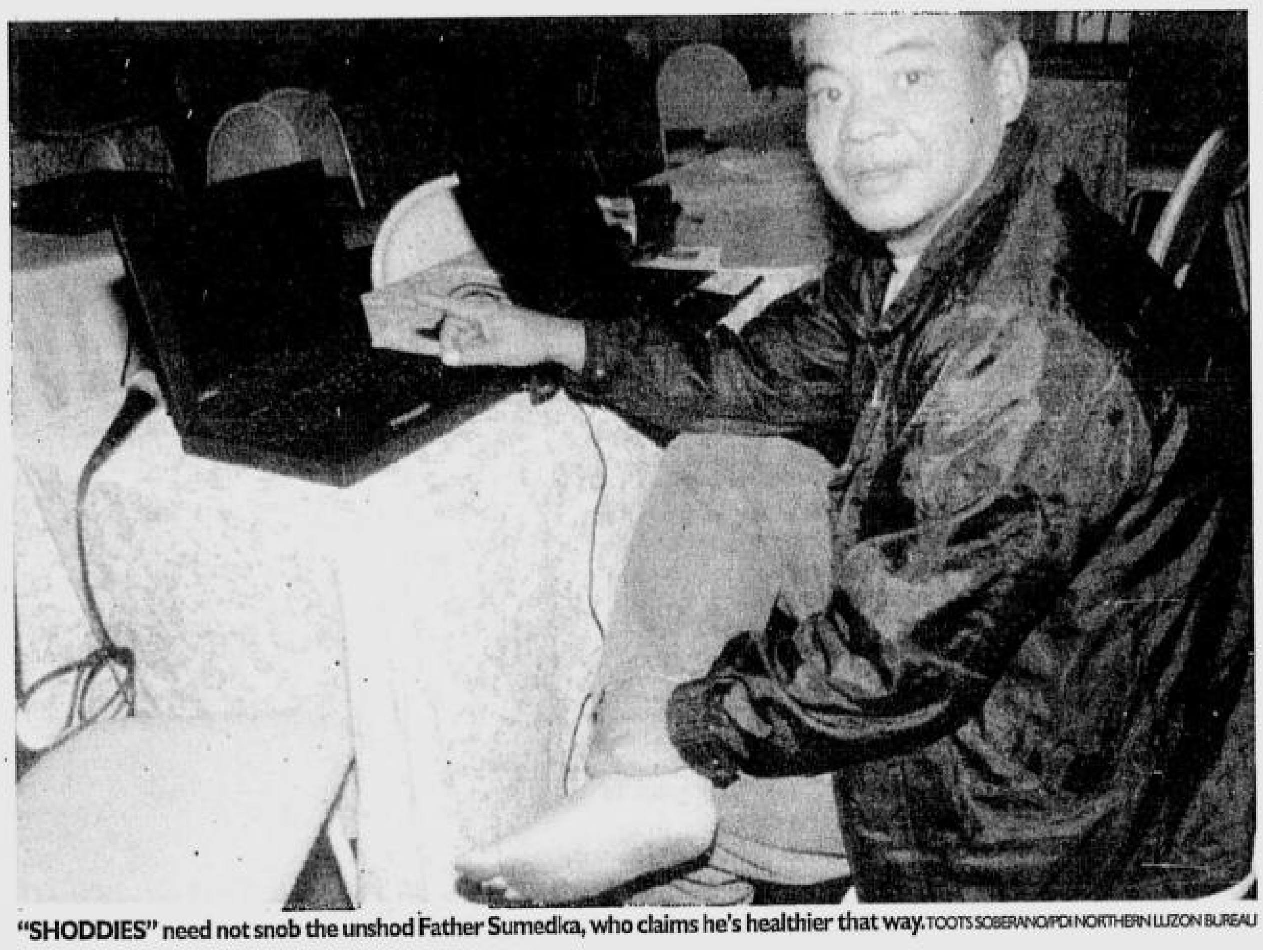

"SHODDIES" need not snob the unshod Father Sumedka, who claims he's healthier that way. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Unshod, this priest bares his sole in public

From page A1

chair of the Bontoc Integrated Multisectoral Health Development Council and president of a Bontoc cooperative, goes around on a motorcycle or a yellow Ford jeep.

"When I celebrate Mass, I often request the altar boys and the deacons to remove their shoes because they are standing on holy ground," Sumedka said.

He added: "I benefited from going barefoot for the past eight years now. It is not against the law, and it's healthy."

Going barefoot was not a difficult choice for Sumedka. He was thrice operated on for arthritis, and it was after the third time that he decided to go without footwear.

Since then he has not complained of foot aches and has not required treatment for arthritis.

Sumedka has gone unshod for so long that no one takes notice anymore. It was only in one of the recent seminars in Baguio that people stared at his bare feet, but only after he had mentioned it and consequently drawn attention to them.

But other people who have adopted a barefoot lifestyle are not as fortunate as he.

The Society for Barefoot Living (SBL), a Yahoo e-group, complains of experiences of discrimination from the "shoddies" (or people who wear shoes).

Richard del Rosario, the sole member of SBL in the Philippines, narrated how he was refused entry at the SM mall in Fairview, Quezon City, because he was barefoot.

The New York Times has also reported that bare-footers often got kicked out of plush establishments because of the belief of some "shoddies" that going unshod was unsanitary, obscene and disrespectful.

Healthy

But according to Bontoc health officer Dr. Penelope Domogo, going barefoot is in fact healthy.

She said there were more diseases and afflictions among the local folk now compared with the time before the 1970s when they did not wear shoes.

Today many Bontok elders still go around town unshod, and they are healthier than most of the young people, she said.

Domogo said embracing a barefoot lifestyle should be the trend nowadays because of its healing powers.

"Our feet consist of 26 bones, 33 joints, 107 ligaments and 19 muscles," she said. "Each foot bears the body's weight and it should be given as much attention as the rest of the body. Diabetes, arthritis, circulatory and other nerve diseases often show first in our feet."

Domogo said going barefoot worked like reflexology, a system that considers the sole rather like a minimap of the body.

When a reflexologist applies pressure to a specific area and the corresponding body part is stimulated, along with the entire nervous system, circulation is improved and internal balance is achieved.

"Mother Earth heals us when we go barefoot. We obtain all the energy that Mother Earth has to offer, and we become more healthy," Domogo said.

She said the increasingly materialistic society had dictated to the Bontoks that they wear shoes—an unfortunate development, she said, because shoes provided a barrier between a person and the earth's healing energies.

Domogo noted that in Western societies, more and more people were going natural, including walking barefoot everywhere.

"One day people will realize the benefits of going barefoot," she said. "Soon stones and pebbles will be marketed, for walking on to achieve feet relief."

Unhygienic

William Rossi, a former podiatrist and consultant to the footwear industry, agrees with Domogo.

In his article "Why Shoes Make Normal Gait Impossible" posted in the Internet, Rossi said: "There is nothing more unhygienic than a foot that is inside a shoe."

Shoes attract more bacteria and dirt than a bare foot will, he said, adding:

"Shoes and feet aren't compatible. No matter the brand, the price, the quality, the style, [a shoe has] a negative effect on the foot."

In their website www.barefooters.org, members of the Society of Barefooters say that unshod feet acquire thicker skin and stronger muscles, and ankles are strengthened. And because their feet are able to breathe, bare-footers are seldom afflicted by athlete's foot and similar diseases.

Aussie awed by honest taxi driver

From page A1

sure I had the right directions.

I paid the taxi driver, got out, and approached the Senate entrance.

A sign said, "Prepare bags for inspection."

That was when I realized I would not be able to do so because my bag was in that taxi that was driving away.

I sprinted after the taxi but, although I am sure I made a world record for the 100-meter sprint, it was to no avail.

I was approached by a Filipino man who asked if I had left something in the taxi.

I told him I left my bag, which contained my passport and valuables totaling over P10,000.

I was quite worried and incredibly angry with myself for being so stupid. I have been traveling overseas before and the No. 1 rule is to always check your passport and to get the license plate of your taxi. I did neither.

Lucky day

A ray of light emerged when the man informed me that he knew the two ladies who got in the taxi after me.

What were the chances of that? It must have been my lucky day.

He tried to call one of the ladies but she had her cell phone turned off. But all was not lost; he knew the other lady worked at the Senate public affairs office. So he went to retrieve her cell number.

Staff members of the public affairs office were extremely helpful and called her straight away. To my delight, she had her phone on and answered it.

Even though I speak very little Tagalog I could read their body language, and it did not look promising. They told me that the two ladies had already hopped out of the taxi and did not see my bag.

They told me the harsh reality which I was avoiding and definitely did not want to hear: "The taxi driver most likely took your bag for himself."

Surveillance video

Despite the hopelessness of the situation they did not give up. I was taken to see Jose Balajadia Jr., the Senate sergeant at arms, who said he might be able to use security surveillance to track down the license plate of the taxi.

Once again my hopes lifted.

When we went to see the surveillance video, we were told the cameras could not actually pick up the plate numbers.

All hopes were again dashed.

I was now faced with a trip to the Australian Embassy to tell them the embarrassing story of how I left my belongings in a taxi and how I failed to get the taxi's plate number.

Commendation

All of a sudden a man came running, yelling, "Sir, sir. Is this your bag?"

I turned around and saw the small backpack that I had believe I had no more chance of laying my eyes on again.

I went to thank the taxi driver and give him a reward for returning my bag, but he had already left.

Apparently he did not want to make a fuss over the situation.

Mr. Balajadia was astonished and could not believe the honesty of the taxi driver. He told Senate President Franklin Drilon about the situation and he, too, was amazed by the integrity of the taxi drive.

He said, "If you find that taxi driver, then the Senate will formally commend his honesty."

A commendation from the Senate President would be an enormous honor and something you could forever be proud of.

Searching for the man

All we know about the mysterious taxi driver is that his taxi's plate number is WGC-857.

If you are the taxi driver who dropped me off at the Senate on Jan. 21, I urge you to come forward and receive the praise that you rightfully deserve. I am leaving this week to go back to Australia and this is the only way I can express my gratitude for your actions.

I call on all INQUIRER readers to keep an eye out for a taxi with the license plate WGC-857. If you are lucky enough to be given a ride by this man, tell him of my appreciation and encourage him to come forward so he could be seen as an example of honesty really being the best policy.

As an overseas visitor you have to rely on the kindness of strangers, but this act of kindness exceeded all my expectations.

Lucky country

I have never experienced a culture as friendly as that of the Filipino people. Filipinos always want to please you and constantly have a smile on their faces.

Australia is called the "lucky country," but the Philippines possesses so many excellent qualities that I believe it should be given the same title.

During my stay here, I found myself extremely "lucky" on more than one occasion. Whether it was by having my bag returned, or by making lifelong friends, or by simply surviving the chaotic traffic, "luck" seemed to be on my side.

While I have only been lucky enough to spend five weeks in the Philippines I am sure it will not be long until I return.

I have made so many Filipino friends during my brief stay that I cannot count them on my fingers and toes combined. It illustrates how friendly the people are, and that is something I will always treasure.

It is a quality that I hope will never change.

(Mathew Murphy is an exchange journalism graduate of the University of Canberra.)

'Terror' is RP's top school principal

From page A1

The class bully is now a teacher himself.

Ragrag, 54, who fondly admits being a "terror" teacher owing to her no-nonsense ways and "imposing presence," introduced policies that fostered deeper parental involvement in students' lives.

For these two high-impact initiatives, Ragrag recently earned the highest recognition in a nationwide search for female educators with inspiring achievements. She was chosen winner of the 2002 Gintong Ilawan-Teodora Alonzo Educators Award for Outstanding Female Principal.

Gintong Ilawan, a joint project of the Department of Education and Avon Cosmetics Inc., is given alternately to elementary and high school principals.

Ragrag, the finalist from Eastern Visayas, was chosen from 16 regional winners. She received P100,000 in cash, a DepEd study grant in Japan, and a Gintong Ilawan statuette depicting Teodora Alonzo tutoring her young son, Jose Rizal.

Making things better

"I guess I really have this passion to help," Ragrag told the INQUIRER.

"What kept me going was the challenge and the thought that I could make things better," she said. "It really helped that the people around me saw my sincerity."

A graduate of the Divine Word University in Tacloban, Ragrag spent much of her teaching career in Granja-Kalinawan High, where her initial salary was P316 a month.

The English and Psychology major taught there from 1976 to 1995, was assigned to two other schools in the next five years, then returned to GKNHS as its principal in August 2000.

When she left the school in 1995, she recalled, 15 classrooms, or about one-third of the campus structures, were still made of "indigenous materials." They were hardly conducive to studying, and absences among students were very high especially during the wet season.

On a rainy day, she said, "10, 20, or sometimes 50 percent" of the student population chose to miss class rather than endure hours dodging the rain from leaking roofs and mud under their seats.

When she returned five years later as its principal, all the school's 15 decrepit classrooms were still being used.

"I asked myself: How can we expect our students, especially those from poor families, to go to class if they encounter the same conditions at home and at school?" she said.

Aggressive fund drive

Ragrag then set into motion an aggressive fund drive among the students' parents, alumni, civic groups, and even personal friends. She also found herself drawing from her own pocket.

Two years and many sponsors later, nine concrete classrooms of standard size were built, complete with pathways, water lines and electrical installations.

Renovation of the remaining old structures is underway, she said, noting that Granja-Kalinawan High now has the "environment of stability" it lacked before.

"If we wait for government support, it may come but not at once," she said, when the INQUIRER noted that most of the donors she cited came from the private sector.

"I have a sense of urgency in what I do; there are projects that cannot wait."

The students' parents, she said, were eager to contribute to the building project because most of them also went to Granja-Kalinawan and therefore knew the terrible conditions of the classrooms.

TEACHER'S teacher, Rebecca Lucero Ragrag is the national winner of the Gintong Ilawan Teodora Alonzo Edcuator's Award for 2002. VAL HANDUMON

Parent involvement

Her other pet initiative that impressed Gintong Ilawan judges was the Parental Involvement for Academic Achievement program.

Through PIAA, Ragrag's administration became known for frequent parent-teacher assemblies concerning school projects and the students' academic performance.

She urged parents to personally see her as often as possible—not just when their children are failing in class or are facing disciplinary action.

Parents, she observed, generally share the notion that they only needed to see school authorities when their kids were in trouble.

"For me, parents should meet with the teacher or principal regularly just to find out how their children are doing," said Ragrag.

Living tribute

Due to the physical improvements and the partnerships brought about by her projects, Ragrag said the students "got more inspired to study."

From mere "passive" observers of their student life, their parents have become directly involved in building the school.

Teachers' morale, "which was falling apart" in previous years, also picked up.

Long before winning the Gintong Ilawan award, Ragrag had been already recognized in many ways.

One "living" tribute is the teenage student with a red handkerchief around his head, who 18 years ago nearly drove Ragrag to leave Granja-Kalinawan. That classroom toughie cleaned up his act, and did well in his lessons.

"He is now one of our teachers," Ragrag beams. "And he would tell everybody that 'if not for Ma'am Ragrag, I wouldn't have made it'."

Pope pleads for peace

From page A1

her regular weekly address aired every Saturday morning. She reportedly felt that she had sufficiently assured the public about the government's contingency plans in case of war.

But at around 3 p.m. yesterday and without being asked, her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye distributed to reporters copies of her message.

Bunye said the message would be aired today. He did not explain why Ms Macapagal did not deliver it on schedule.

In the message, the President said: "I warn those who wish to take advantage of the situation by hoarding supply or jacking up prices.

"We will protect our consumers from unscrupulous traders taking advantage of the situation. We prohibit traders from illegal acts like price manipulation, cartel activities, profiteering and hoarding."

Ms Macapagal ordered the National Food Authority outlets and the so-called "GMA rolling stores" to ensure enough stocks of basic commodities.

She also promised farmers and food producers that the government would curb smuggling. She said that despite the threat of hoarding, the government would stop smuggled items like pork, chicken and vegetables from reaching the market.

The President touched on speculations against the peso, which on Friday plunged to P54.10 against the dollar, the lowest since July 2001.

She said the Bangko Sentral would intervene to arrest the peso's fall.

"We will do all within our power to keep the rate stable, and I ask the cooperation of the financial sector in this effort," she said.

Repeating herself

If the usual schedule had been followed, Ms Macapagal should have taped her message Friday night for airing Saturday morning.

But according to a Palace official who asked not to be named, the President was not pleased with the speech that had been prepared for her, which supposedly mainly touched on the government's preparations for a US-Iraq war.

"She does not like to repeat herself," the official explained.

She reportedly directed her staff to revise the speech and eventually decided to do away with it altogether.

Bunye offered no reason for the delay. He confirmed that the President did have her speech changed, but said only "minor" changes were made.

In the message that was aired, the President did not cite her reasons for supporting the US case against Iraq, for which she was criticized by various government officials and anti-war groups.

Last Monday, when she was least expected to, she delivered remarks echoing US President George W. Bush's threat of war against Iraq.

She said the Philippines was "disappointed" at the Iraqi leadership's failure to submit to a United Nations weapons inspection.

"The UN should be ready to act with dispatch and force, when required. Otherwise, it will lose its credibility as a force for peace," she said.

On Thursday, she said US Secretary of State Colin Powell's presentation before the UN Security Council had "convinced" her that Iraq had been developing "weapons of mass destruction." *With reports by AP and Dona Pazzibugan*

PRESIDENT Macapagal with overseas Filipino workers in Kuwait, who are facing a unique evacuation problem: What about our passports? AP

MIDEAST CONTINGENCY

Passports a problem in OFWs evacuation

By Volt Contreras

THE GOVERNMENT has done nothing to help overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East secure their passports from their employers to allow them to easily cross borders in fleeing the war zone, a militant group said yesterday.

Poe Gratela, chair of the Migrante International, said the Philippines' Middle East Preparedness Team (MEPT) had failed to include the matter among the contingency measures it set up in light of the impending US attack on Iraq.

"The government should have already made the proper diplomatic communications and seen to it that our OFWs already have their passports in their hands," Gratela said at a weekly press forum in Quezon City. "Otherwise, it will be chaotic once the evacuation starts."

Gratela said that in most cases, OFWs in the Middle East were required to surrender their passport to their employer for the duration of their contract.

He pointed out that without the vital document at the outbreak of war, those based in, for example, Saudi Arabia would be forced to just move within that country instead of going to neighboring countries that would prove safer, like Yemen, Jordan or Qatar.

Gratela said that in place of passports, "exit permits" could be issued to OFWs by their host countries upon arrangement with the Philippine government—although this would involve more red tape, he noted.

"If this is not done, our OFWs, among the most vulnerable of whom are domestic helpers, will practically be held hostage in the war zone," he said.

The concern over passports was just one of the issues raised by Migrante in the course of questioning the contingency plans of the MEPT led by Ambassador Roy Cimatu.

Migrante cited the lack of transport vehicles, shelters and supplies for the OFWs who could stand in harm's way, particularly in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

"Our member organizations in the Middle East have reported that not one bus is available for the evacuation until now," Migrante said in a statement.

At the House, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said in a statement: "Let's face it. The current repatriation or rescue plans [for OFWs] are fraught with problems."

She noted that government plans for the OFWs so far involved "merely moving them away from the Kuwaiti capital into eastern Saudi Arabia."

She said such plans might be insufficient "to protect and safeguard Filipinos considering that the warring parties may use biochemical weapons."

"Realistically, our budget constraints and two unreliable C-130 aircraft do not give us many options," she said.

Americans to teach Muslims. . .

From page A1

sands of madaris in ARMM because they will be taught English by speakers of the language," Valisno said, noting that English is not included in the curriculum of many madaris.

But the second highest official in the ARMM said government should first consult with Islamic theologians about the plan.

Vice Gov. Mahid Mutilan, who is also ARMM education secretary and an Islamic scholar, said he wanted to evaluate the program first to see that it does not run against Islamic teachings, which the Madrasah system was anchored upon.

"I would like to know first whether the teachings and the subjects are in line with Islamic values. If they are, then it is most welcome in the ARMM," Mutilan said.

Mutlian said his office could not just compel madrasah administrators into allowing the Americans to teach their students.

"These are private schools run by Islamic theologians but I am supportive of this idea because we have to educate our children that we must fight terrorism ... Islam is against terrorism," Mutilan told the INQUIRER.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said it has nothing against the plan.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said any lesson that could enhance the Bangsa Moro's knowledge of democratic processes and rules of law would be helpful.

He said the MILF, like America and its allies, abhors terrorism and any effort to strengthen the fight against it was highly commendable.

"We are supportive of any effort against terrorism. That's a very welcome development," Kabalu said.

But he also wants the MILF to see the program first before it is implemented.

"This will be done by American teachers. We should know what kind of indoctrination they are going to make," Kabalu said.

An insult

Ustadz Mohammad Dingal of Davao City, however, sees the plan as a big insult to Muslim Filipinos.

"It is only a manifestation of America's perception that Muslims in the Philippines are savages who should learn about laws. Doesn't America realize that the Moro people have the best set of laws, which is the Koran?" Dingal said.

During the rule of the sultans and the datus, Moro communities practiced a form of government based on the Koran. Although laws were strict, the Moros were free.

As to reports that the American teachers would also be teaching madrasah students about democracy, Dingal said: "Why, are we communists? Are we fascists?"

Valisno explained that the initiative would be a "revival of the century-old tradition" where American English teachers were sent to the Philippines during the American colonial period. The teachers were called Thomasites, after the USS Thomas ship that brought them to the country.

Valisno said Ricciardone himself has previously said that teaching English and the rule of law in the madaris is a "good counterattack" against the supposed teaching of radicalism and extremism in these Islamic schools.

She likewise pointed out that according to Ricciardone, the sending of American teachers is "part of the community-based activities of the US government's Balikatan exercises in Basilan and ARMM."

English is one of the subjects under the restructured basic education curriculum being pilot tested in selected madaris in the ARMM as part of the project to mainstream Madrasah education.

The project is a major component of the Edukasyon Para sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran sa Mindanao Program of the Office of the President.

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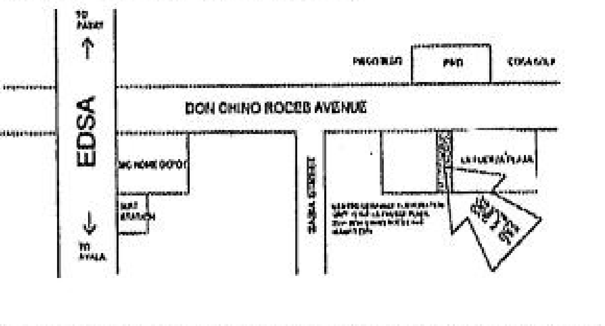

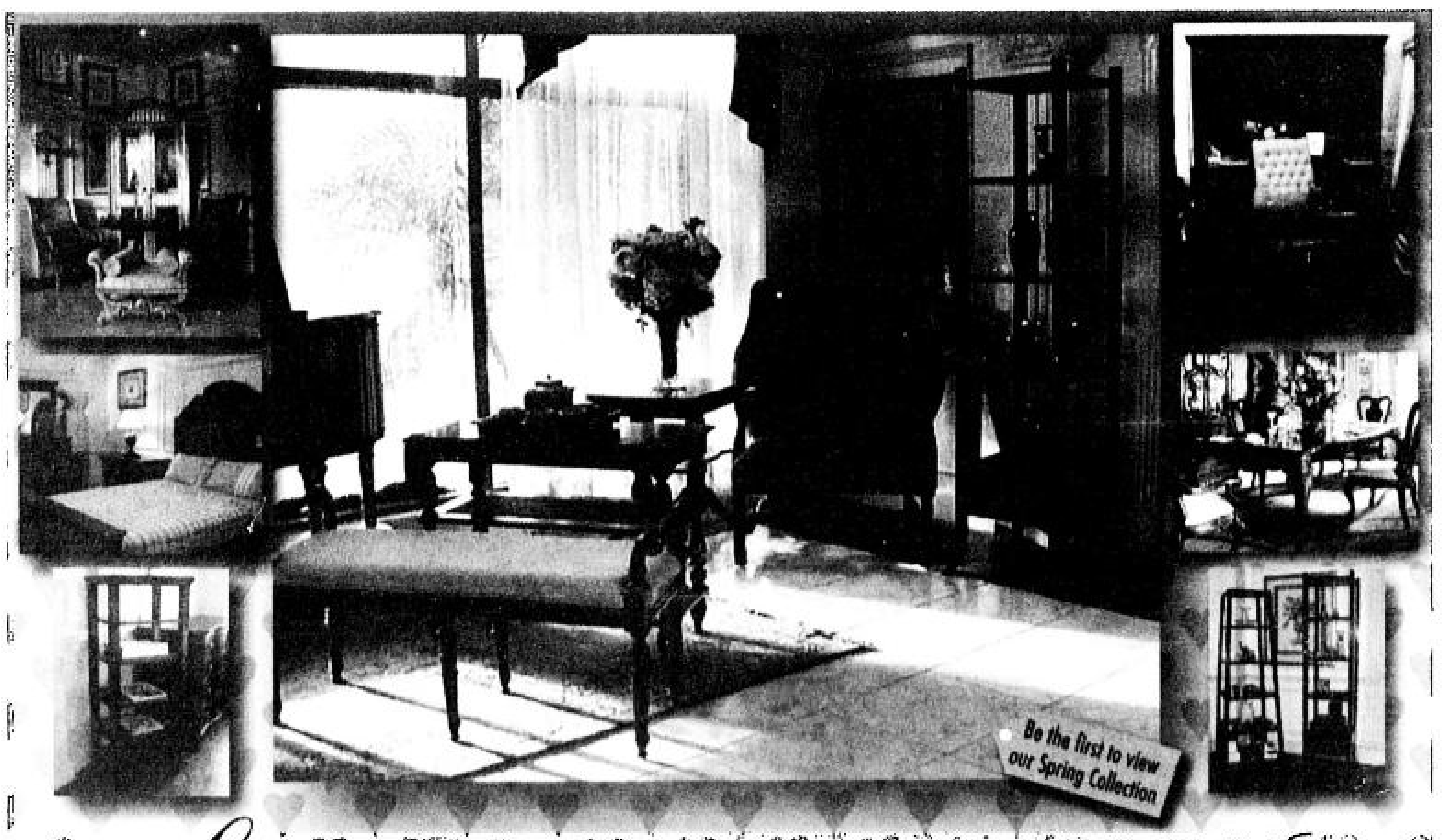

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NBA ALL-STAR GAME

Yao's first, probably Jordan's last

JORDAN

ATLANTA—It will be Yao Ming's first appearance and probably Michael Jordan's last as basketball's rising star and its fading genius take center stage at the NBA All-Star game Sunday.

While Yao and Jordan will grip the spotlight in a weekend of slam dunks and hype, the NBA's All-Star extravaganza will offer up a little something for everybody around the world. *(See related story on A20)*

The mid-winter showcase will be televised live to 212 countries in 41 languages and reach a global audience of 3.1 billion people.

For the second consecutive year, five international players will take part in the All-Star classic, underlining the globalization of the sport and the NBA's ever-increasing worldwide penetration.

Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki provides German fans with a reason to tune in and Cleveland Cavaliers center Zydrunas Ilgauskas becomes the first Lithuanian to play in the NBA showcase.

Maverick's guard Steve Nash will hold Canadian interest while San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan of the U.S. Virgin Islands along with Yao complete the foreign contingent.

Saturday's Rookie Challenge will add to the international flavor with Memphis Grizzlies forward Pau Gasol of Spain, Spurs Tony Parker of France, Utah's Andrei Kirilenko and Denver Nuggets Brazilian Nene Hilario, all in the lineup.

The presence of Los Angeles Lakers dynamic duo of Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal has also helped ensure Philips Arena, home of the hapless Atlanta Hawks, will enjoy its first sellout for a basketball game this season.

But it is Yao, the first rookie selected to start an NBA All-Star Game since Grant Hill in 1995, the basketball world is most anxious to see.

The Houston Rockets' towering center received the fourth highest number of votes in the All-Star balloting (1,286,324) behind only Bryant (1,474,386), Orlando Magic's Tracy McGrady (1,316,297) and Toronto Raptors' Vince Carter (1,300,895), out polling O'Neal by over 200,000 votes.

A record four Chinese broadcasters (CCTV, Beijing TV, Guangdong TV and Shanghai TV) will be on-site to chronicle Yao's All-Star debut, allowing the NBA's advertisers and sponsors to tap into the world's most populous country and emerging market place.

While the contest will mark Yao's coming out it will also likely be Jordan's last, the Washington Wizards' forward hinting this will be the final season in a remarkable career that includes 13 NBA All-Star games and three All-Star game MVP awards.

His Airness has also appeared in the popular Slam Dunk contest three times, winning in 1987 and 1988 with gravity defying acrobatic displays.

But unlike Jordan's 12 previous All-Star appearances he was not voted to the starting lineup and will come off the bench as reserve.

With Jordan anchored to the bench, Carter has come under sharp criticism from almost every corner for not surrendering his spot in the Eastern Conference starting lineup to the future Hall of Famer.

The third-leading vote-getter despite missing 33 games this season with recurring knee problems, Carter has refused to step aside, saying it would be a slap in the face to all the fans who voted for him.

"I think I owe it to the fans to be out there on that starting lineup, for one, because they voted me in with the amount of games that I played," offered a defiant Carter. "There is a reason why I'm playing, and it's the million-plus people that voted for me."

Jordan, who has had an often frosty relationship with the player many have anointed as his successor, needs just 10 points to become the All-Star game's all-time leading scorer and surpass Kareem Abdul-Jabbar with 251, has stayed above the fray and refused to be drawn into the controversy.

"It's a Catch-22," said Jordan, who had already rejected offers from Philadelphia 76ers Allen Iverson and Orlando's McGrady to take their place as starters. "If he gives up his spot, some fans will be disappointed."

Reuters

YAO MING

CARTER
15
MO GAME

mo jimmys
▷ mo. a slang term for /more/
jimmys: a jump shot. example: that kid's jimmy is smooth.

mo cookies
mo. a slang term for /more/
cookies: used in reference to stealing a basketball. example: he stole his cookies!

mo dimes
▷ mo: a slang term for /more/
dimes: an american coin with a value of ten pennies that in the context of basketball means an assist. example: did you see that pass? he dropped a dime.

mo shakes
▷ mo: a slang term for /more.
shakes: the result of several basketball moves and fakes by a dribbling offensive player which has caused a defender to try to go into more than one direction at the same time.

mo boom
▷ mo. a slang term for /more/
boom: a powerful, loud, and emphatic dunk shot. example: i boomed on you, man!

mo cleaning glass
▷ mo: a slang term for /more/
cleaning glass: to rebound a basketball. originated due to the fact most backboards are made of plexiglas, and many players use big swiping motions to gather rebounds.

mo game
▷ mo: a slang term for /more/
game: what a multi-skilled player has when he wears the nike shox vc II. its full-length shox technology provides the responsive energy you need to shake, shoot jimmys, steal cookies, drop dimes, boom and clean glass.

▷ nike.com/nikeshox

Commissioner's office seeks ₱200-M budget

By June Navarro

EALA

THE PBA Commissioner's Office is pushing to get an annual budget higher than what it had last season, a move that will start the ball rolling for the projected relaunching of the league beginning this year.

From a working budget of P158 million last year, the PBA is looking to increase its budget by almost 30 percent, a big portion of which will be channeled to the payment of the venues and the manpower of the league.

According to an INQUIRER source, PBA commissioner Noli Eala is lobbying for an annual budget worth over P200 million to defray the marketing and operational costs and pay the league's tax dues.

Eala neither confirmed nor denied it but said his office has proposed a budget that he believes would be enough to infuse life into the PBA's programs.

The source said the proposed budget may be a giant leap from the previous one but viable enough considering the 50-percent government tax the PBA must shell out.

"The tax will eat up half of the budget pie. If only for that, the proposal of the commissioner's office could easily be justified," a PBA insider added.

The PBA Board of Governors will decide on the fate of Eala's budget proposal this week along with the signing of the league's television franchise agreement with NBN-4.

The venues of the games have a budgetary requirement of almost P40 million while the wages of the PBA's workers could eat up as much as P30 million from the budget.

The technical side of the PBA's operations is bound to gobble up more than P8 million and almost P10 million will be set aside for marketing, auditing and the renovation of the PBA offices.

Concepcion bares basketball program

CONCEPCION

AN INVITATIONAL tournament for the country's leading high school teams will usher in a comprehensive basketball development program being spearheaded by Joey Concepcion III, president and CEO of the RFM Group of Companies.

Elmer Yanga, RFM consultant, said the summer tournament to be held in Metro Manila will be the initial project of an association being formed to focus on basketball for children and teenagers.

Next in line is a basketball camp for the same age group scheduled at the RFM gym after the Holy Week.

Yanga said the format of the basketball tournament would be similar to the World Basketball Championship and that Concepcion has sought the assistance of former PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino and Moying Martelino to work out the details for this tournament.

Selecta, a member of the RFM Group of Companies, will be one of the major sponsors.

According to Yanga, Norman Black and other sports personalities will be involved in the basketball camp, which will be divided into two age groups, 7 to 11 years old and 12 to 16 years old. Details of the program will be finalized not later than Feb. 15.

Yanga also hinted that RFM, through Sunkist, may return to the PBL fold sooner than expected.

"The plan of PBL to go regional is a very welcome development and in the event that they push through with all members adopting a region, Mr. Concepcion may re-think his earlier position of not joining PBL since this will now be consistent with our objective and part of our priorities," Yanga said.

Concepcion has always batted for grassroots and youth basketball development and believes that regionalization is an effective tool toward this goal.

Roy Luarca

Aris hits pay dirt, signs up with Bgy. Ginebra

By Dennis U. Eroa

LOOK what true faith can do.

After toiling in the PBL and a year of waiting for the big break in the pros, good looking Aris Dimaunahan finally hit pay dirt as he made it to the final lineup of Bgy. Ginebra in the PBA.

The 24-year-old Dimaunahan, a former member of the national youth team and longtime playmaker of Blu Detergent, impressed the Ginebra coaching staff headed by Allan Caidic, meriting a spot in the Kings' backcourt rotation.

"I am very thankful to St. Jude, patron of the hopeless," said Dimaunahan, who hails from Lipa City. Last year, Dimaunahan was picked in the third round by Bgy. Ginebra but he was unable to crack the lineup when Jayjay Helterbrand got a clean bill of health.

But he didn't lose hope. "I kept on playing. I polished my skills because I know my time will come," Dimaunahan said.

With his big fighting heart, Dimaunahan blossomed as one of the PBL's leading playmakers under coach Leo Isaac. He was a member of the mythical five in the recent Challenge Cup, but playing in the pros looked an impossible dream when he was cut by Purefoods last month despite an impressive two weeks of practice.

"I was devastated but I did not surrender," Dimaunahan recalled. Then, Ginebra gave him a ring and he lost no time fitting superbly to the Kings' style of play.

This Jason Kidd-fan said he's delighted to partner veteran Bal David in the backcourt. The third man in Ginebra's rotation is the spirited Rob Johnson.

"I cheered for Bal when he played for UST," recalled Dimaunahan, who did not make it to UST's varsity team despite playing for three years in its Team B.

"Life is like that. One needs to be patient and persevere," said Dimaunahan.

Dimaunahan sports a tattoo of an angel, in memory of his eldest son Aristeirre Jared, who died when he was four-days old.

"Jared was an inspiration," said Dimaunahan. Married to former teen actress Jane, Dimaunahan is now proud father to Dandalet and is waiting for the arrival of their second child.

Dimaunahan will receive P70,000 a month in the first year of his two-year contract.

DIMAUNAHAN

Heidi's new dream

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HEIDI Chua has made a confession. She is all set for a career in golf. Professional golf, that is. She said her decision was not the "spur of the moment" type. She broke the news to me moments after she won her third Southern Ladies Open in four years at the Cebu Country Club on Friday.

"I've started giving it a serious thought three years ago," Heidi said. "I guess this game is my life."

That decision was there all along, dancing in her mind like a twinkling star after she had come home from a caddying stint for Jennifer Rosales in the US LPGA in 2001. That caddying chore startled many back home, particularly those who personally know Heidi and her roots.

"The five legs that I caddied for Jenny gave me the opportunity to watch the LPGA at close range," said Heidi, who is your perfect example of a girl who has it all since her parents are really super rich. "The experience with Jenny made me rethink about my priorities. I told myself back then, `Hey, I guess this is where I belong' and I immediately told my parents about it. I'm thankful naman to them because they immediately supported my dream, as they always do."

The 26-year-old Heidi, who once received a BMW as a prize from her parents for winning a minor tournament, was a virtual unknown on the golf scene until she burst into the spotlight with a Cinderella finish in the 2000 Southern Ladies Open, the oldest and most prestigious tournament for the country's lady amateurs.

Right after seeing Heidi grab the lead of the 2000 Southern Ladies Open at Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan de Oro City, Alice Ll. Andrada spoke glowingly about the girl then of 22 summers.

Said Alice, the moving spirit behind the Southern Ladies Open, of Heidi: "She is a gifted golfer with the potential to hit the big time."

Alice was not mistaken as Heidi successfully defended her crown in the 2001 Southern Ladies Open at the Bacolod Golf & Country Club in Bacolod City's Binitin. That year, too, Heidi won the Philippine Ladies Open and soon found herself getting drafted to the Philippine Team to the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games. She won the bronze team medal in her rookie year as a national player.

Although Heidi surrendered her Southern Ladies Open title to Lina de Guzman in 2002 at Del Monte in Bukidnon, the Wack Wack bet never fretted about it.

"I felt a little bad but then, I told myself I needed to work harder if I was to win on a consistent basis," said Heidi, who still managed to bag the other big one–the Philippine Ladies Open last year.

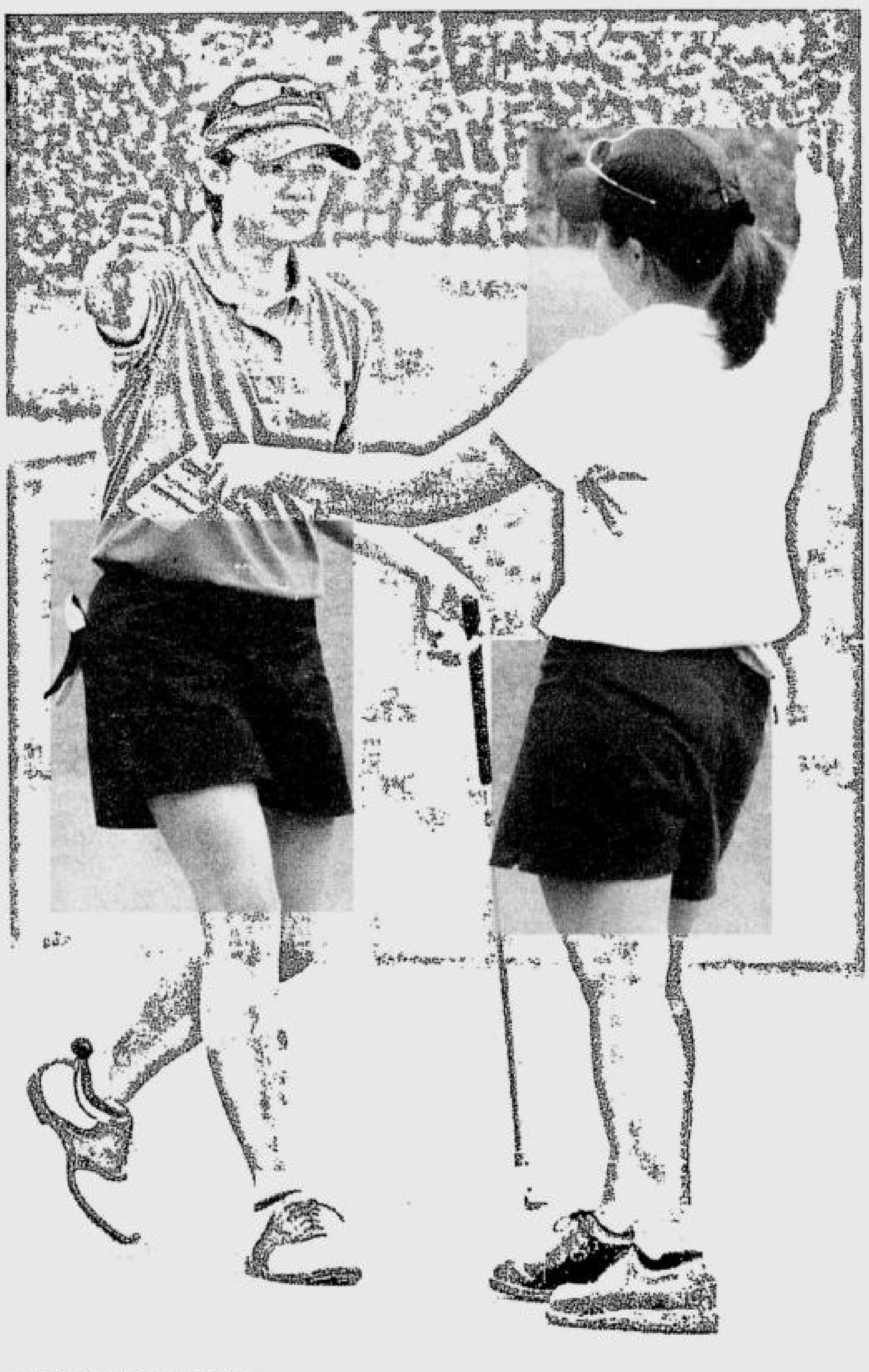
The setback in Del Monte derailed her dream of sweeping all three majors last year-the DHL-NGAP Open, Philippine Ladies Open and the Southern Ladies Open. But that only gave her more reason to work on her game harder. With Bong Lopez, the former national team coach, honing her skills without letup, Heidi realized her dream of sweeping the three events this year.

"With my dream fulfilled," said Heidi, "I'm now ready for the US LPGA."

She will join the three qualifying schools in Florida in April-May. She needs to pass all three to get her Tour card and become the third Filipina after Dorothy Delasin (now a US citizen based in New Mexico) and Jenny to make it to the LPGA.

"Hopefully, I'll be able to make it and join Jenny and Dorothy next year in the US Tour," she said.

Good luck, Heidi.



SOUTHERN CHAMP
Heidi Chua (left) receives a hug from Lora Roberto after Chua successfully retained the championship in the 40th Southern Ladies Open at the Cebu Country Club last Friday. TONEE DESPOJO

Laput tops Malarayat leg of Samsung Amateur tilt

JONG Laput proved too classy for his rivals in the championship class, posting an eight-stroke victory in the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour eliminations recently.

Laput turned in the best scores for both days, an 80 and 78, as he routed his challengers with a 158 total. Antonio Legarda checked in second with a 166 and Bing Bunye third at 168 in the 36-hole tourney chiefly sponsored by Samsung.

Laput was joined in the winners' roster by Jose Quiocho (Class A), Boycee Arguelles (Class B), Alfredo Abarintos (Class C). Winners in the ladies division were Ia Bakunawa in Class A and Janese Carr in Class B.

The event served as the final qualifying leg and the division winners move on to the national finals next month at the Tagaytay Midlands where they will be joined by other division winners from the Eagle Ridge, Cebu and Midlands stages.

The other sponsors are TaylorMade adidas, Gatorade, Fila, Custom Clubmakers, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers is also scheduled at the Midlands. Wave 89.1, City Lite 88.3, 103.5 K-Lite, Magic 89.9, KillerBee and 99.5 RT are radio partners.

For inquiries, please call the organizing Professional Sports Management Group at 0917-8381874.

Quiocho's 152 won him the division for 5 to 9.9 handicappers by three over Terrence Macatangay, Arguelles took the title in the 10-14.9 handicap class also by three over Francis Bawal while Alfredo Abarintos topped the big field of players in the 15-and-above handicap range with a 171 against the 173 of Val Plata.

Ia Bakunawa was unchallenged in Class A while Carr's 179 won her the crown by two over Rita Horan.

The Amateur Tour is part of a three-in-one package that also includes the just-concluded Samsung Putting Challenge and the Samsung Interscholastics slated Feb. 18-21 at the Villamor Golf Club.

MEN'S GOLF

Teenage girl makes waves

AIEA, Hawaii—Michelle Wie had them buzzing at the Hawaii Pearl Open.

WIE

Playing from the back tees, the 13-year-old from Honolulu opened Friday with a 2-over 74 at one of the premier men's golf tournaments in Hawaii.

The only female in the field of 192, and the youngest overall, Wie said she felt fine until she ran into a bunch of bees on the 11th hole.

"I got stung like five times in the same place, so I was limping," she said. "My whole leg was pretty sore after that."

Wie said her goal in the three-day event — which draws half of its field from top Japanese pro and amateur players — was to place in the top 20.

Last year, Wie failed to make the cut after rounds of 74 and 80. She is aiming to shoot even par Saturday to comfortably make the cut and stay in the hunt.

Wie had two birdies and four bogeys in her round, making the turn at 37. She was paired with three men from the Japanese tour, and she beat two of them. At nearly 6 feet (183 centimeters) tall, Wie towered over her playing partners.

Japanese pro Hikekazu Matsui, who was five strokes behind Wie, didn't speak much English, but did know one word that summed up his teenage partner's game: "strong."

The $80,000 tournament was played at Pearl Country Club, where Wie tried to qualify for last month's Sony Open. In the Monday qualifier, Wie shot a 1-over 73 from the back tees and tied for 47th against 96 men.

Following her attempt at the Sony, Wie was featured on national television, golf magazines and sports pages across the state.

"It's really fun, I like it," she said of the media coverage. "It also pushes me harder because I think if I don't play good, all the attention will go away."

Furyk ahead

PEBBLE BEACH, California--Jim Furyk jumped into the lead by one stroke at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Friday with a second-round six-under-par 66.

Furyk, tied for 34th when the day began, fashioned a seven-birdie, one-bogey round at Poppy Hills Country Club and is on seven-under 137. *Reuters*

Dela Torre scores ace in Alabang Mango Tee

RICARDO dela Torre bagged the first big prize, a Yamaha cart worth more at least P250,000, after scoring a hole-in-one yesterday even as the tandems of Alex Capanza-Junnie Bagalso and Francis Jimenez-JR Tanpinco took the headstart in the chase for the top awards in the 19th Mango Tee, the member-guest invitational of the Alabang Country Club.

Dela Torre, the guest partner of Ernie Cruz, used a Precept MC ball and a Callaway heaven wood in scoring the ace on the short 12th hole that highlighted the exciting Day 3 action of the event presented by Smart.

With the Yamaha cart donated by Kart Plaza Manufacturing won, today's final round field will be left with the Mitsubishi Lancer GLS 1600 worth P785,000 and Mitsubishi Adventure Grand Sport Diesel (P825,000) on the other designated holes.

Capanza-Balgaso had 78 points for the best net score after the first half while Tanpinco had 37 points and Jimenez added 28 for the gross lead of 65.

Joining Smart as major sponsors are Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, Inc., Taylor Made, Makati Skyline, Standard Chartered Bank and Turf Company. Fedex, Pepsi Cola and Security Bank-Diners are the premium hole sponsors. Hole sponsors are Nestle, Acro Industrial, Beneficial PNB Life Insurance, Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., Cocolife/Direct Link, Directories Phils. Friends of Mango Tee, Gainers Marketing, GG&A Club Shares, Inc., Golforce Inc., Green Cross, Inc., Golfers Clubshares, Inc., Haji Andi Tabusalla, Hyundai Ortigas, Joseph Rice Mill, Maisog Engineering, Natropin, Pilipinas Shell, Prudential Life, Supreme Construction, SRC, Tanduay, T&C Construction, The Bellevue Manila, WG&A and YKK Zipper Phils. with the special participation of Ciolo Mondo, Hanson So, Asian Imex and the Inquirer Golf Monthly.

Cebu hosts karate tilt

NINETEEN events--four in kata and 15 in kumite--will be contested when the 16th Philippine Karate-do Federation National Open championships get going on Feb. 22-23 at the Cebu Coliseum.

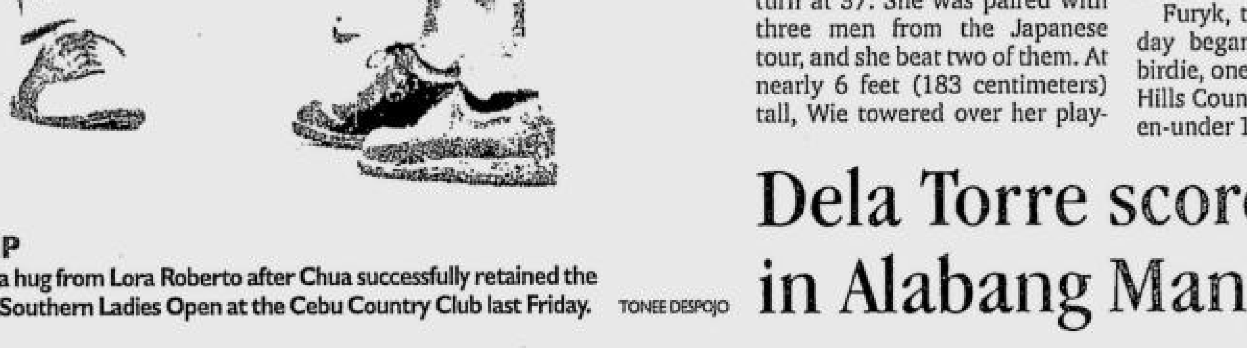
Some 350 karatekas from all over the country are expected to participate in the two-day tournament where the gold and silver medalists will qualify for slots in the national training pool.

PKF president Eduardo Ponce said the tournament has been reformatted to allow talented all-comers the rare opportunity to get into the national pool.

So far, 178 entries have already been confirmed, according to PKF Cebu City coordinator Manuel Aloba and city mayor Tomas Osmena.

The 2003 PKF Open hopes to surpass last year's joust held at the Baguio City Colleges gymnasium. PKF secretary general Jose Manansala said 258 entries, 146 coaches, team captains and delegation heads and 50 tournament officials attended the 2002 edition in the Pines City.

Supported by the Philippine Sports Commission through chair Eric Buhain PCSO through chair Ma. Livia "Honery Girl Singson De Leon and Unilever's Chito Macapagal, athletes, coaches and delegation personnel will get 20-percent discount from WG&A shipping lines and 30 percent from Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific en route to the site.



THE PEOPLE behind the staging of the 19th Mango Tee pose on the 10th tee after hitting the ceremonial balls. From left, ACCI vice-president Dindo Ibazeta, sports and games division manager Caloy Coscolluela, sponsor Haji Andi Tabusalla, Mango Tee chair Rene Garovillo, corporate secretary Boy de Borja, chair Jun Galindez, president Farley Ampil, sponsor John Barandiaran and GM Larry Jalbuena.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: 2003 NBA All-Star Saturday, 8:30 a.m., Star Sports, 7 p.m., Solar Sports
GOLF: The Golf Club 2003, 2:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports
PGA AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, 5:30 p.m., Star Sports
Best of PGA, 10:30 p.m., ESPN
TENNIS: The Collins Cup, 12 noon (r), Star Sports
POOL: World Professional Pool Championships 2002, 2:30 p.m. (r), ESPN

Mosley tackles Marquez

LAS VEGAS— Shane Mosley has a lot on his mind going into Saturday's fight with Raul Marquez. He's coming off two straight losses, never has fought at 154 pounds (69.3 kilograms) and is in a money squabble over a planned fight with Oscar De La Hoya.

Mosley needs a good win to regain his confidence. At the same time, he knows a loss could threaten a career that once seemed without limit. AP

YAO WEST STARTER

Shaq: No problem coming off bench

ATLANTA, Georgia—Yao Ming figures Shaquille O'Neal is more deserving of a start in Sunday's National Basketball All-Star Game, but O'Neal said he has no problems with the Chinese giant relegating him to the bench.

The two dominating Western Conference centers spoke here Friday before Sunday's 52nd NBA All-Star Game, in which 22-year-old Houston NBA rookie Yao will open the game while Los Angeles Lakers superstar O'Neal watches in a seat.

"Am I upset coming off the bench behind Yao Ming? The answer is no," O'Neal said. "Yao Ming is a great guy and he's good for the game. It doesn't matter to me who starts and who comes off the bench."

Yao was elected to start over O'Neal in fan balloting thanks largely to the NBA, which provided on-line ballots in Mandarin Chinese for the first time. Reserve players, including O'Neal, were chosen by coaches.

O'Neal has led the Lakers to three consecutive NBA titles and while the club is only 24-23, "Shaq" averages 26.4 points and 10.8 rebounds a game. Yao has 13 points and eight rebounds a game for the Rockets, 26-22.

O'NEAL

YAO

Asked if he felt he had done enough to deserve the starting job, Yao admitted, "I don't think it's enough. People can see the difference between me and Shaq."

Yao said his main goal was just to reach the All-Star Game, an honor awarded him by fans.

"The thing I wanted to do has already been done — I have qualified for this game," Yao said. "I feel a very big step has been removed. The greatest excitement is to be selected."

While O'Neal was gracious, Shaq does have a bit of a problem with the selection process. He wants on-line ballots available in more languages so people like Dikembe Mutombo, Manu Ginobili and Dirk Nowitzki have home nation help in making the starting five.

"When you talk about fairness, you should open up the voting to everybody around the world," O'Neal said. "That way Africa can vote for Dikembe. Argentina can vote for Ginobili. Germany can vote for Dirk." And there might be more global votes to prevent the world's most populated nation, China, from electing a homeland hero, Yao, as a starter.

"China, with its population, has a lot of votes," Brazil's Nene Hilario said. "It would have been nice to have been born in China." Yao has earned the praise of his fellow All-Stars, most notably from rival big man Tim Duncan of San Antonio.

"He's a presence in there, someone you have to focus on and plan for," Duncan said. "His size, his touch, the way he can shoot the ball is all pretty impressive. His sheer size — just being on the court with him is impressive." Spain's Pau Gasol, a center for Memphis, expects big things from the NBA's biggest man. *AFP*

Amare longshot in Slam Dunk

ATLANTA—Suns rookie power forward Amare Stoudemire knows a thing or two about lofty expectations.

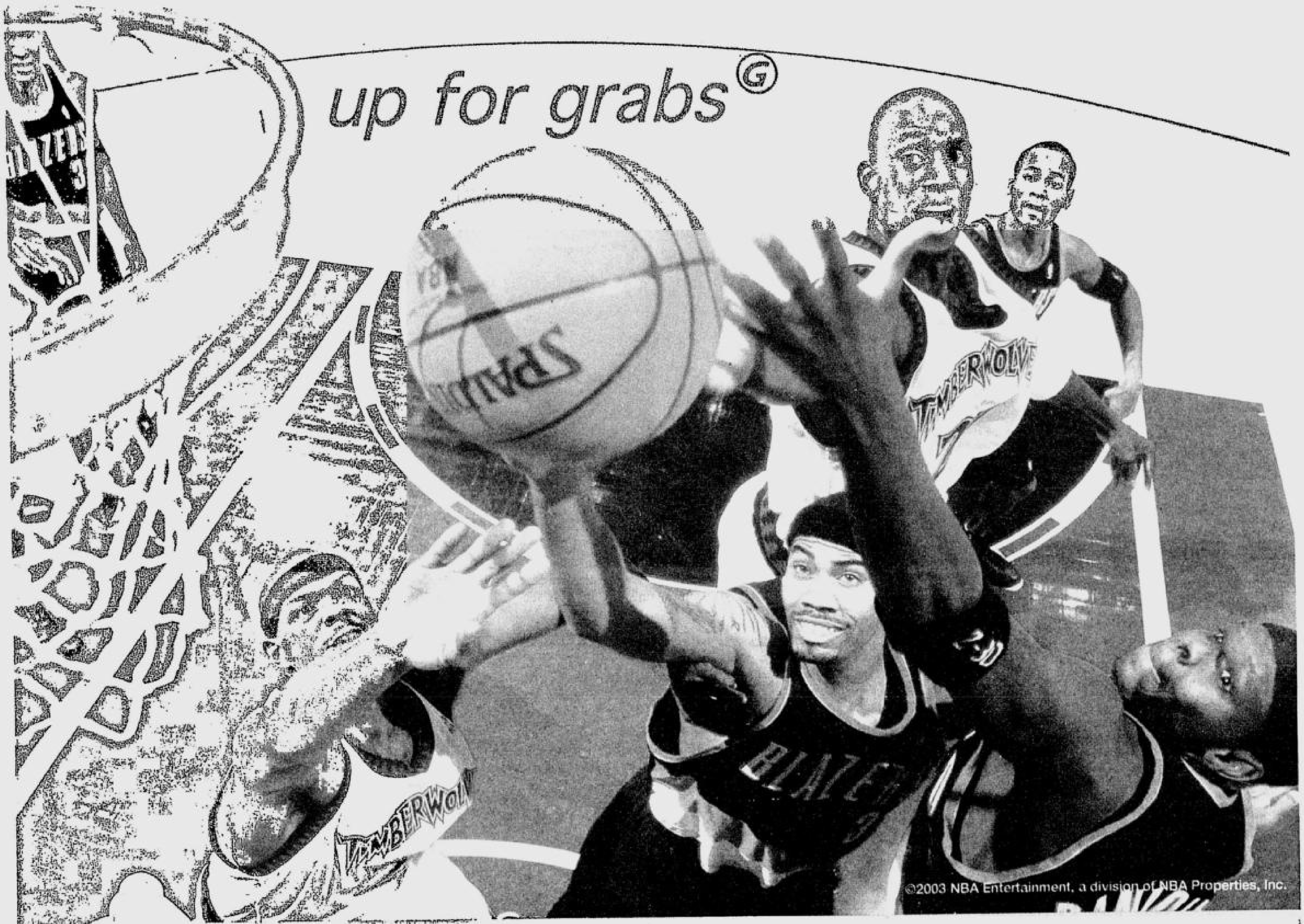
But even the 6-10 Rookie of the Year candidate couldn't believe the advice teammate Stephon Marbury recently gave him on how to win Saturday's Slam Dunk Contest.

"Steph told me to put a quarter on the top of the backboard, go get it and dunk [with the other hand]," Stoudemire said. "I was like, 'I don't know if I can do that.'"

Hey, why not?

Stoudemire might be a longshot in Saturday's dunk event–which also includes Golden State's Jason Richardson, New Jersey's Richard Jefferson and Seattle's Desmond Mason–but he has shown this season that his reach should not be underestimated.

Despite coming straight from high school to the NBA, he ranks among the top five rookies in scoring, rebounding, blocks and field-goal percentage. Already in his brief career the 20-year-old has a 38-point game (against Kevin Garnett and the Timberwolves) and a 21-rebound effort against the Grizzlies. *AP*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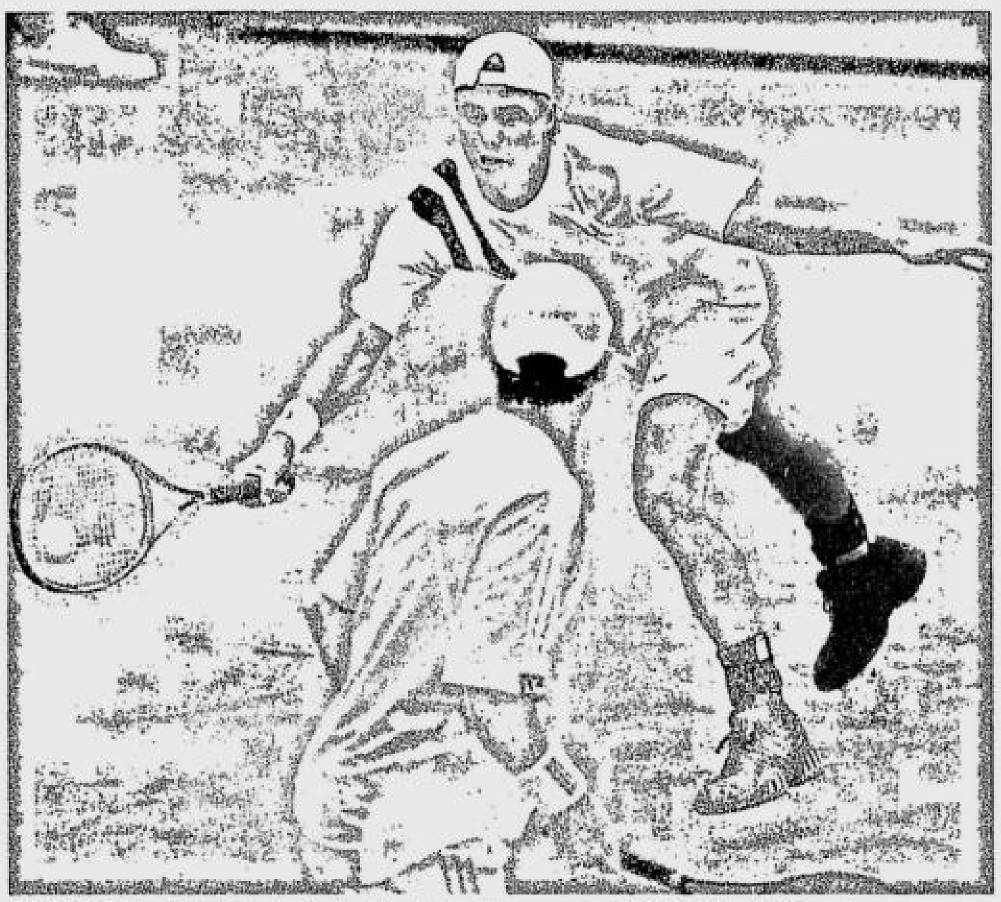
DAVIS CUP

Australia sweeps Britain



LLEYTON Hewitt of Australia (top) watched by compatriot Todd Woodbridge plays a forehand return during their doubles match in the Davis Cup World Group first round tie against Great Britain in Sydney, Saturday. The Australian pair defeated Great Britain's Arvind Parmar and Miles Maclagan 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 to give the home side an unbeatable 3-0 lead. AFP

SYDNEY, Australia--Australia completed a winning 3-0 sweep of an injury-depleted Britain on Saturday in a first-round Davis Cup match, advancing it to the quarterfinals against either Sweden or Brazil.

Australia's doubles combination of Lleyton Hewitt and Todd Woodbridge beat Britain's Arvind Parmar and Miles Maclagan 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

On Friday, Hewitt beat British left-hander Alex Bogdanovic 7-5, 6-1, 6-2 while Mark Philippoussis defeated Alan Mackin 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Two reverse singles will be played Sunday that will not affect the outcome.

Britain, heavy underdogs here due to injuries to Tim Henman and Greg Rusesdki, will now take part in a playoff to determine whether it will remain in the world group for 2004.

Woodbridge, 20-6 in Davis Cup doubles and holder of 74 career doubles titles, became Australia's longest-running player in Davis Cup history.

He made his debut in 1991, giving him a 12-year career in Davis Cup, one more than current Australian captain John Fitzgerald.

"We were happy to finish it today," said Fitzgerald. "Britain had everything to gain and nothing to lose, but they handled it with a lot of dignity and class."

Hewitt and Woodbridge got off to a good start, taking a 5-0 lead before Parmar and Maclagan won their first game. But Woodbridge held his service in the next game to give Australia the first set in 22 minutes — before many in the capacity crowd of 10,000 had settled into their seats at the Sydney International Tennis Center.

"That fast start was important," said Hewitt. "We put them on the back foot from the beginning."

Britain had a resurgence to open the third set, breaking Woodbridge's serve to go up 1-0 and holding on the next to go up 2-0. Hewitt won Australia's first game with two second-service aces, and Australia broke back to put the teams back on serve before Britain broke Hewitt's serve to go up 4-3.

Serena prevails

PARIS--World No. 1 Serena Williams coasted into the semifinals of the Gaz de France Open on Friday when she defeated Slovakia's Janette Husarova 6-3, 6-3 in a quarterfinal match.

Williams will meet Greece's Eleni Daniilidou, seeded eighth, in Saturday's semi-final. Daniilidou overpowered fourth-seeded Jelena Dokic 6-1, 6-3.

France's Amelie Mauresmo (3), playing her comeback tournament after a 3 1/2 month injury break, won 7-6 (4), 6-3 against Spain's Magui Serna.

Mauresmo, the winner here in 2001, took seven match points to put away the tenacious Serna, and now meets Russia's Elena Dementieva in the semifinals. *AP*

Philta Open gets going March 5-9 at Olivarez

OLIVAREZ

THE PHILTA Open, the first of what is considered then as the grand slam of Philippine tennis, kicks off March 5-9 at the Olivarez Sports Complex indoor courts in Parañaque.

The event, which is now being revived by Philta chair and former Paranaque Mayor Pablo Olivarez, stakes a total purse of P200,000 to the top local tennis players including national netters Johnny Arcilla, Adelo Abadia, Michael Mora III, Rolando Ruel and reigning PCA Open champ Joseph Victorino.

Supported in full by Philta president Buddy Andrada, the event is part of the original annual tri-tournament including the Metro Open (Aug. 13-17) and the National Open (Dec. 17-21) which will also be held at the world-class Olivarez Sports Complex.

"This is our first step toward uplifting Philippine tennis," said Olivarez. "It's going to be very hard to come up with a serious and balanced development program, but we will surely get there through the help of Col. Andrada."

The men's singles champion will win P35,000, while the women's singles winner gets P18,000 with Federation Cup mainstays Patricia Santos and Czarina Mae Arevalo as top favorites.

Olivarez Sports Center manager Edna Olivarez, herself a former national team campaigner, said registration is on going at the Philta office (525-6434) and at the indoor courts (820-2237).

The Olivarez Sports Center features three claycourts and two hardcourts, all indoors. It will soon inaugurate its state-of-the-art basketball dome, Olympic-size swimming pool, badminton gym and outdoor tennis courts.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Super Derby stakes Benz

FOR the first time ever since it opened in 1999, Mandaluyong Coliseum and OPMI Management will hold a major national derby which dangles juicy prizes to the champion owner, handler and gaffer, plus the biggest insurance money for any six pointers.

The five-day event (March 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15) is dubbed "Super 8-Cock Derby", offering the latest 2003 model of Mercedez Benz (C-200 Kompressor) to the champion.

The champion handler will get a whopping prize of P500,000, the biggest ever, while the gaffer gets P50,000. Those who will score 6 points are assured of P1 million. Runner-up finisher gets P100,000.

OPMI president Vic Yu, derby host, delegated a provincial emmissary who is now handling out invitations to bigtime cockers in Davao, Cebu, Iloilo, Panay Island, Negros Occidental and other provinces to make sure this derby will truly be national in scope.

Required entry fee is P33,000 while minimum bet is P11,000.

Meanwhile, submission of weights to the "Birthday Special 5-Cock Derby" of engineer Sonny Lagon is set today, Sunday, Feb. 9, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The derby's sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Complexor 3000, New Pagcor Casino Filipino and Lakpue Drug Inc.

For details, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

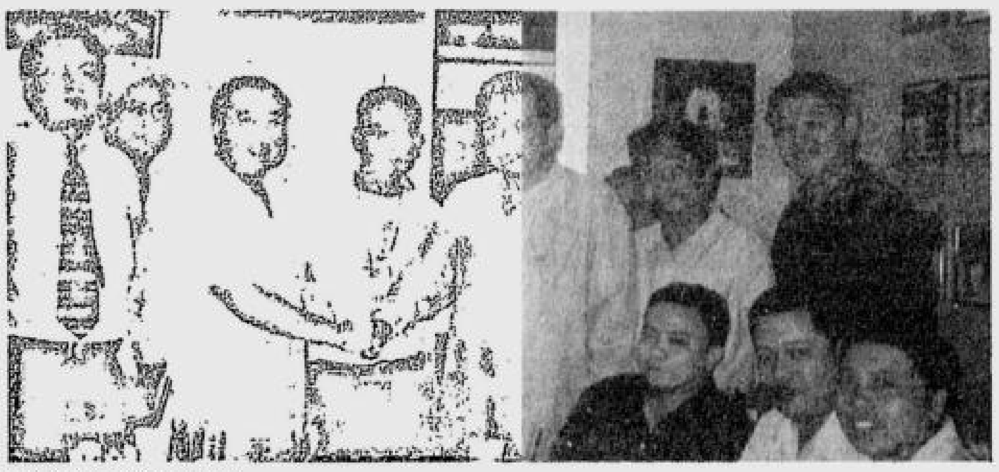
LGBA tourney starts Tuesday

THE FIERCE battle of Luzon's topnotch breeders continue as the much-awaited "2nd LGBA Pasabong 7-Cock Derby" gets going at Mandaluyong Coliseum on Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 11 and 13.

Official entries must be submitted tomorrow, Monday, Feb. 10, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For further inquiries, interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

For a minimal entry fee of only P8,000, the guaranteed pot is P400,000, said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

The leading contenders in the LGBA Cocker of the Year 2003 race are Mauro Prieto of Palawan (Anito, 6 points); Wilvin Sy (Platinum Fireworks, 6); Alfred and John Reyes (Liberty Gold Cup III, 5); Sandy Javier and Boy Diaz (RMR Crowsland Purple Haze I, 5); Jay Sonza (Spider 676 III, 5); Bobby del Rosario (Mangzee Farm 4.5); Vice-Gov. Mario Espinosa (Islander II, 4); Amado Bagatsing (Air Gladiator, 4); B. Diaz, S. Javier and Rep. Lawrence Wacnang (RMR Crowsland Purple Haze II, 4); and Danny Pineda/Danny Lim (Blue Mountain Farm, 3).



CAGEFEST HOST

Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara (standing 5th from right) shakes hand with Basketball Association of the Philippines regional director Julian Lavadia, representing BAP president Tiny Literal, after accepting the province's hosting of the 57th National Inter-Collegiate and Secondary Basketball Championships from Feb. 24-March 2. Bichara is also a former BAP regional director.

Devers, Dragila sparkle

NEW YORK--Gail Devers has plenty left in her 36-year-old legs.

The two-time Olympic champion set an American indoor record in the 60-meter hurdles Friday at the Millrose Games, finishing in 7.78 seconds. Stacy Dragila also reset her American record in the pole vault, jumping 15 feet, 5¾ inches.

Both upstaged the flashier Maurice Greene.

Greene had a disappointing finish in the 60, finishing third in 6.57 behind winner and hurdle specialist Terrence Trammell (6.51) and 20-year-old Justin Gatlin (6.54), in his first post-collegiate race.

Devers was anything but disappointing en route to the record and Millrose Games Outstanding Performer trophy. She broke the mark of 7.81 set by Jackie Joyner-Kersee on Feb. 5, 1989. *AP*

'World class'

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

BARRING any snags, races at dear, old San Lazaro Hippodrome will now be held in Carmona, Cavite by April.

That is because a new racing complex has been built there and those who joined the recent on-site tour of the place gave it the thumbs-up sign.

"World-class *talaga*. It's something we can be proud of," said Putch Puyat, president of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners. "It's not only a gift to *kareristas* but to the Filipino people as well."

Those who have already seen it say it can be our answer to Hong Kong's Sha Tin or Singapore's Kranji, the racecourse "designed for champions."

The 77-hectare horse racing facility in Carmona is 36 kilometers south of Manila, and fans who may wish to visit it can pass through the Carmona or Southwoods exits.

While the *bayang karerista* may have some problems going to and fro the new racetrack, Kranji provides easy accessibility for racing buffs because it is linked by excellent expressways and mass rapid transit trains to all parts of Singapore. Frequent and punctual trains, unlike our LRT or MRT, bring racegoers right up to the doorsteps of its grandstand building.

Also, it is just 20 kilometers north of the city and less than 30 minutes away from Changi International Airport.

My Silip Boy said he'll join another tour of of the Carmona racetrack, if there's any. *"Gusto ko ring makita,* Boss, *kasi* to see is to believe, *di ba?"*

***

One Winner can also be reached through evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or sports@inquirer.com.ph

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Hazlimade 2. Dance in the Wind 3. Better Both
Race 2--1. Cool Clay 2. Security Star 3. Truly Ajay 4. Nasaan Ka Irog 5. Bull Treasure
Race 3--1. Lord of All/Midnight Rose 2. Kitty Hawk 3. Sunny Puddles
Race 4--1. Cause of Our Joy 2. Empowered 3. Mr. Speaker 4. Silver Music 5. Precious Stone
Race 5--1. Stop Talking 2. Graceful Ann 3. Schumacher 4. Regal Reality 5. Carolina Belle
Race 6--1. Duty Bound 2. Trail Blazer 3. Friendly Venture 4. Silver Cho Cho 5. Sovereignty
Race 7--1. Southern Charm 2. Summit Power 3. Rumaragasa 4 Perfect Nine 5 Green Buck
Race 8--1. Stock Rising 2. Grace and Fortune 3. Winning Prize 4. True Mighty 5. Strong Contender
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Race 10--1. Real Material 2. Perfect Gift 3. Best of Times 4 Supreme Prospect 5. My Aday
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Race 12--1. Jerold's Dream 2. Front Page 3. Eyewitness 4. Ang Seaman 5. trick Shot
Race 13--1. Storm Princess 2. Marginal Note 3. Wan Star 4. Madam Aida 5. Witch Craft 6. Simlong

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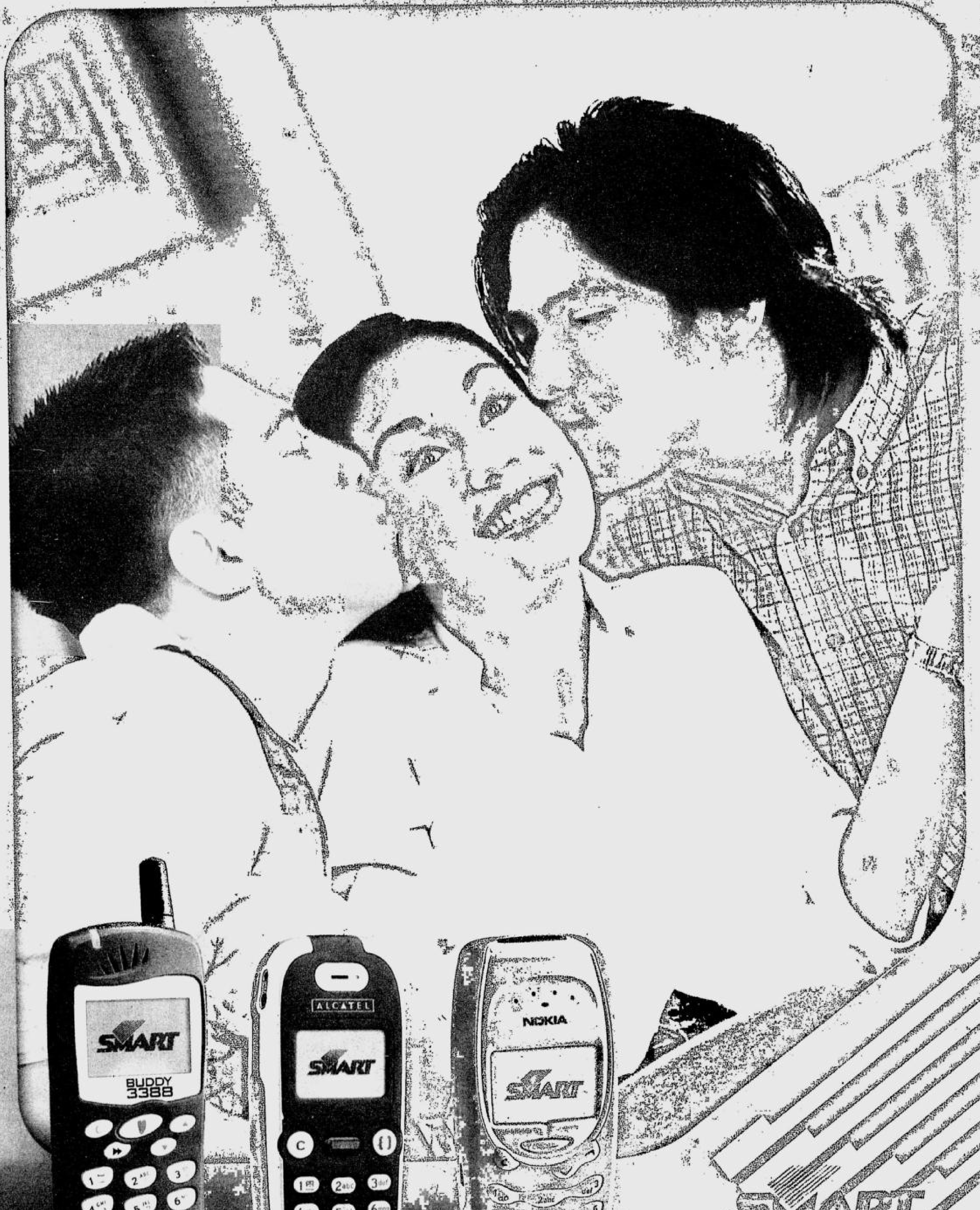
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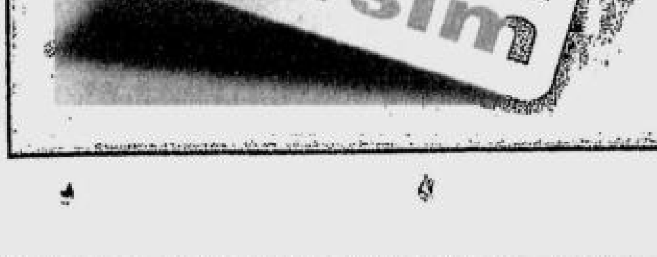
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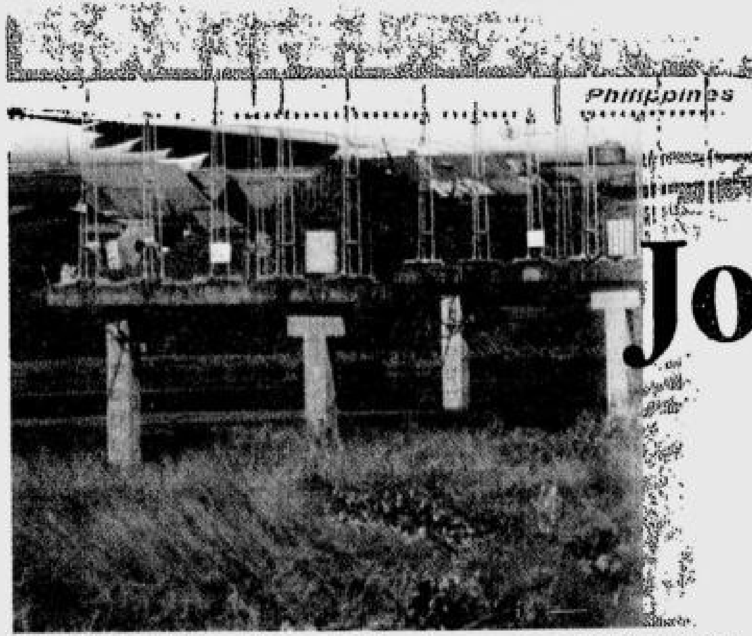


PARAÑAQUE Mayor Marquez's idea of a revenue-generator comes in the shape of a runway. ROGER MARGALLO

Joey stamps reign over Naia

By Leila Salaverria

PARAÑAQUE Mayor Joey Marquez would not mind at all if the Manila International Airport Authority would not buy back the auctioned portions of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"I'd prefer it if MIAA doesn't buy back the property. We'll then have the opportunity of having it rented," he told the INQUIRER yesterday. "(The airport) would be Parañaque's pride. It would be the first time it has happened that a city owns an airport."

He added that the city would gain a lot of revenues from renting out the key portions of Naia, worth at least P655M, which the city government auctioned off on Friday after the MIAA stopped paying taxes to the city in 1998. There were no bidders in the auction, so ownership of the disputed properties went to the city government.

But Marquez said the MIAA could still buy back the auctioned portions, with interest, in one year.

In the meantime, the operations at Naia would remain at status quo.

The mayor added that the city government would be putting tags on the auctioned property for this to be identified as belonging to Parañaque.

Marquez also denied reports that the auc-

JOEY/A24

NBI mulls over reopening case of Chavez killing

By Jerry Esplanada

"COWARDS do not deserve justice."

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco made the remark when he heard that two Army personnel were having second thoughts about telling governnment probers what they knew about the death of 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez.

Wycoco said that the NBI is here to help the victims and witnesses "fight for their right and seek justice."

"We're willing to stick our necks out for them," he said. "Inspite of that, (the two Army witnesses) still refuse to cooperate and lend us a little hand. Then they can only blame themselves."

Wycoco said they were not ruling out the reopening of the case, "more so if new witnesses or new evidence will come out."

"It's possible we will reopen the case," said Wycoco, who added that he would not allow the memory of a fellow member of the Philippine Military Academy be tainted in death.

He said he was interested in the case because, like Chavez, he was a member of the Philippine Military Academy. Chavez graduated from the academy in 2000, while Wycoco belonged to the Class of '68.

When interviewed, Wycoco said "it would be good if (the witnesses would) be convinced to come out and talk to us."

"We'll just be too glad to help," he added.

Citing what it called "overwhelming evidence pointing to a case of a self-inflicted wound," NBI investigators decided to close the Chavez case last June.

The 22-year-old Chavez was pronounced dead early morning of Feb. 9, 2001 by doctors at the Fort Bonifacio General Hospital in Taguig, Metro Manila.

Chavez was found with a gunshot wound in the chest at the 191st Military Police Battalion female officers quarters.

Two Army insiders had earlier expressed willingness to "tell all" about the death of the young Army signal officer from Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur.

TITLE/ A25

BF calls for timeout from traffic critics

By Leila Salaverria, Jerome Aning and Abigail Ho

AFTER a week of being barraged by complaints about the traffic allegedly caused by the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Scheme, Metro Manila Development Authority officials are calling for a timeout.

Yesterday, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando appealed to critics to give their mouths some rest, saying the MMDA needs a few weeks to systematically study the effects of the UVVRP suspension.

"We gave it three weeks," he said. "Let's not pre-judge the suspension because we're studying the effect."

Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said the amount of time is very essential to the study, especially since in most of the MMDA's projects, the first week is usually beset with problems because the motorists have to adjust.

"Look at the no left turn and no crossing schemes, during the first week of its implementation, there were a lot of complaints," Lacuna said. "Later, they saw that it worked."

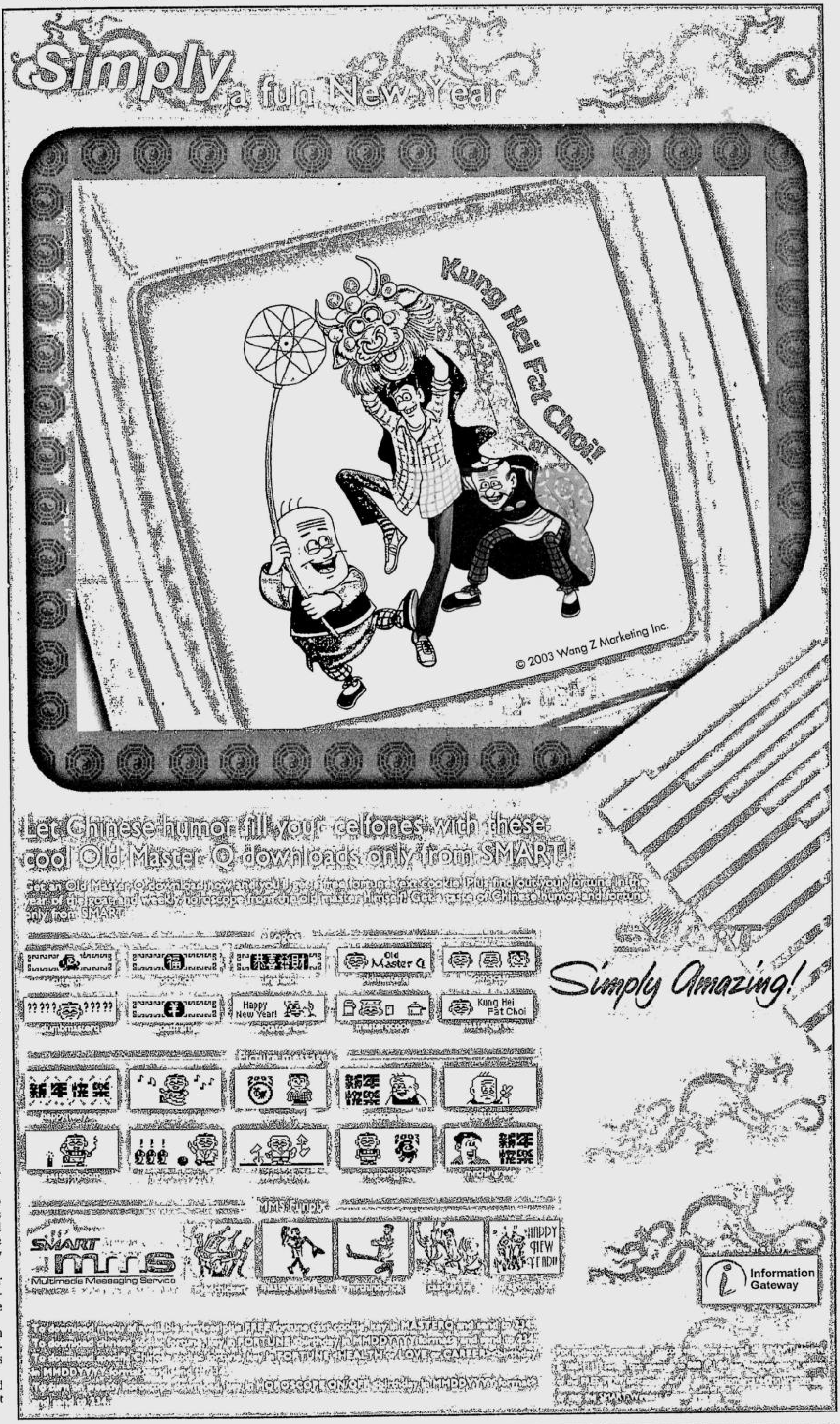
Fernando earlier said that MMDA personnel have been conducting a traffic count at major intersections using its 36 traffic cameras.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel De Dios has also said the MMDA is monitoring the number of vehicles supposed to be "banned" from the roads due to the UVVRP. This way, the MMDA would know by how much the volume of vehicles increased.

The MMDA gained an ally in Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who said that the effective enforcement of traffic regulations is the answer to the traffic woes, not vehicular volume reduction.

"The solution to the traffic problem lies in enforcing traffic rules and not in making motorists bear sacrifices," he told reporters in his weekly news conference Friday.

"The responsibility of traffic enforcers should be made clear from now own; enforcement should be consistent, not erratic," he said.



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The Hope of Freedom and Justice! Is Back!

THE Met may become Manila's answer to La Scala in Milan—that is if Mayor Atienza were to have his way.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Atienza wants to turn Met into city's grand ole opry

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza now has his eye on the Metropolitan Theater, and he wants to turn it into a grand old opera house.

The Manila City Council has passed a resolution backing the Mayor's plans to restore the Metropolitan Theater to its "old glory."

The councilors said the mayor's plans to renovate and transform the theater—popularly known as the Met—into a world-class opera house, will enable city residents to go to a classy place where they can relax and enjoy stage shows and other cultural presentations at affordable prices.

Councilor Arlene Koa, the resolution's author, said the Met is one of the few structures of great historical values to the city that survived the last war.

She said the edifice is evidence of the city's rich architectural heritage and symbolizes the vision to develop the Filipino artist and preserve the country's culture through the performing arts.

The 1st district councilor blamed the deterioration of the Met to the protracted legal battle between City Hall and the Government Service Insurance System.

In April 2002, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the National Commission for Culture and the Arts to set aside P50 million to renovate the Met.

Atienza also initiated talks with GSIS president Winston Garcia for an out-of-court settlement.

During the Marcos regime, the Met was used as collateral for a P30-million loan granted to then Metro Manila governor and First Lady Imelda Marcos.

The GSIS seized the Met after the debt ballooned to about P300 million, due to penalties, interest charges, and "penalties over penalties."

The ownership dispute is still pending before the Supreme Court.

Chamber stops Maynilad from scrapping water pact with MWSS

By Christine Gaylican

THE INTERNATIONAL Chamber of Commerce arbitration panel has suspended indefinitely the Maynilad Water Services' termination of its water concession agreement with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System which would have taken effect yesterday, Feb. 8.

In a notice sent to Maynilad and the state-run MWSS, the ICC arbitration panel said it was suspending the termination of the contract as it still had to hear the case from both parties.

MWSS administrator Orlando Honrade said the order meant that Maynilad would continue its operations of the west zone concession.

Maynilad, a subsidiary of the Lopez Group's Benpres Holdings Corp., last December decided to terminate its concession to operate half of the MWSS' service area in Metro Manila citing its mounting debts.

The return of the concession could mean that MWSS would be obliged to pay Maynilad's early termination claims of P15 to P17 billion.

The dispute has been submitted for arbitration to the Paris-based ICC which will evaluate the validity of Maynilad's decision to terminate the concession.

In a statement on Friday, Maynilad said the concession agreement was officially terminated on that day, Feb. 7, and it was returning the operations, management and obligations to the MWSS.

"But if MWSS is not ready to take over the concession, Maynilad is willing to continue rendering services to our customers in the west zone," the Maynilad statement said.

According to Department of Justice Undersecretary Manuel Antonio J. Teehankee, the arbitration panel will decide whether the termination notice filed by Maynilad would be effective or suspended while the dispute is being heard.

3 BI men held for extortion

By Jerome Aning

MANILA policemen arrested three agents of the Bureau of Immigration last Friday for allegedly extorting P50,000 from Chinese businessman James Ching, 21.

Nabbed in an entrapment operation in Intramuros were BID intelligence officers Ceferino Tan, 51, and Simeo Eleria, 51, both of Sta. Cruz Laguna, and Ricardo Malolos, 60, of Alaminos, Laguna.

Ching, a resident of North Bay Boulevard, Tondo, claimed the suspects took him into custody for violating certain immigration rules at the parking area of the bazaar on Pagal Amilio Street, Baclaran, Parañaque City last Friday at around 1 p.m.

Ching's friend, Willy Lim, 25, said the suspects later called him and demanded P50,000 in exchange for Ching's liberty.

Lim quickly reported to the Western Police District's investigation unit. Its chief, Supt. Romulo Sapitula, set an entrapment at the Starbucks Cafe on Magallanes Drive in Intramuros.

The BID agents and Ching met Lim an hour later. The suspects were arrested as they received the P50,000.

Tan, Eleria and Malolos were charged with robbery before the city prosecutor's office.

Money problems lead to hanging

FINANCIAL woes were blamed for the suicide of an engineer inside his home in Quezon City early Friday morning.

Quezon City police identified the fatality as Domingo Toledo, 52, of 27 F. Ventura St., BF Homes, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Toledo was found hanging from a dog leash inside his music room by his maid Juvelyn Sarmiento, 19, at around 6:15 a.m.

The victim was last seen around 3 a.m. by his wife Teresita, 37.

According to investigation, the victim had financial problems after he failed to collect debts owed to him by different individuals. Toledo was reportedly in the business of lending money to individuals in exchange for a small interest.

All details behind the engineer's death pointed to a suicide. But, as per standard operating procedure, police are continuing to investigate the incident for foul play. *Alcuin Papa*

Joey stamps reign...

From page A0

tion was meant to harass MIAA General Manager Edgardo Manda.

"I was just doing what I should for the city of Parañaque," he said.

Marquez hinted that he is not willing to renegotiate with Manda because the latter has shown no intention of paying its multi-million peso tax obligation to the city.

"Let's be true to ourselves," Marquez said, referring to Manda. "We have met a lot of times and I realized he's just delaying things. The law cannot wait. Even if you're in government, you have tax obligations."

The mayor also said he has already consulted a battery of lawyers who assured him that the Supreme Court's temporary restraining order won't have legal implications anymore.

The city government received the TRO three hours after the auction began.

"The TRO is meant to stop the auction. But what will it stop if the auction has been done?" he said.

Marquez also denied he could be liable for contempt or sub judice, as Manda has stated.

"I don't know if he knows the law. There is no sub judice, there is no contempt," he said.

In reaction, Manda said he would just wait for the Supreme Court decision on the matter before deciding whether or not to pay the taxes.

"I will go by what the law says," he said. "Let's always respect the rule of law."

Asked about his alleged dilatory tactics as Marquez had claimed, Manda said the Parañaque mayor is entitled to his opinion.

"If he feels he has been aggrieved, then so be it," Manda said.

He added that Marquez is free to say what he wants about the city's alleged acquisition of key portions of Naia.

"That's his opinion. He makes his own and I will also make my own position," he said.

Manda on Friday scored Marquez for being "too impatient" by selling off the disputed properties. He vowed to "preserve the integrity of the airport" and said he and his lawyers are studying legal remedies in light of the sale.

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Enriched **Inulin Fiber** (or Inu-Fiber) has three key nutritional benefits:

– It increases calcium absorption. This active ingredient supports the body growth of your kids by helping increase bone density and improving calcium uptake. It helps them build stronger bones for the rest of their lives.

– It stimulates good internal function. This active ingredient stimulates the growth of helpful bacteria that stimulates the good functioning of your kids. It is a well-deserved food with a built-in treasure of essentials your children need to build up their digestive resistance.

– It energizes the body and the mind. This active fiber really works for an energetic and balanced body functioning ensuring a healthy body going with a healthy mind.

In essence, **Inulin Fiber** helps to improve the bone mineral density, support a healthy gut and stimulates beneficial bacteria to the body.

Food Applications

Having confidence in the health benefits of **Inulin Fiber**, food manufacturers all over the world have begun to reap these benefits as a showcase of social responsibility.

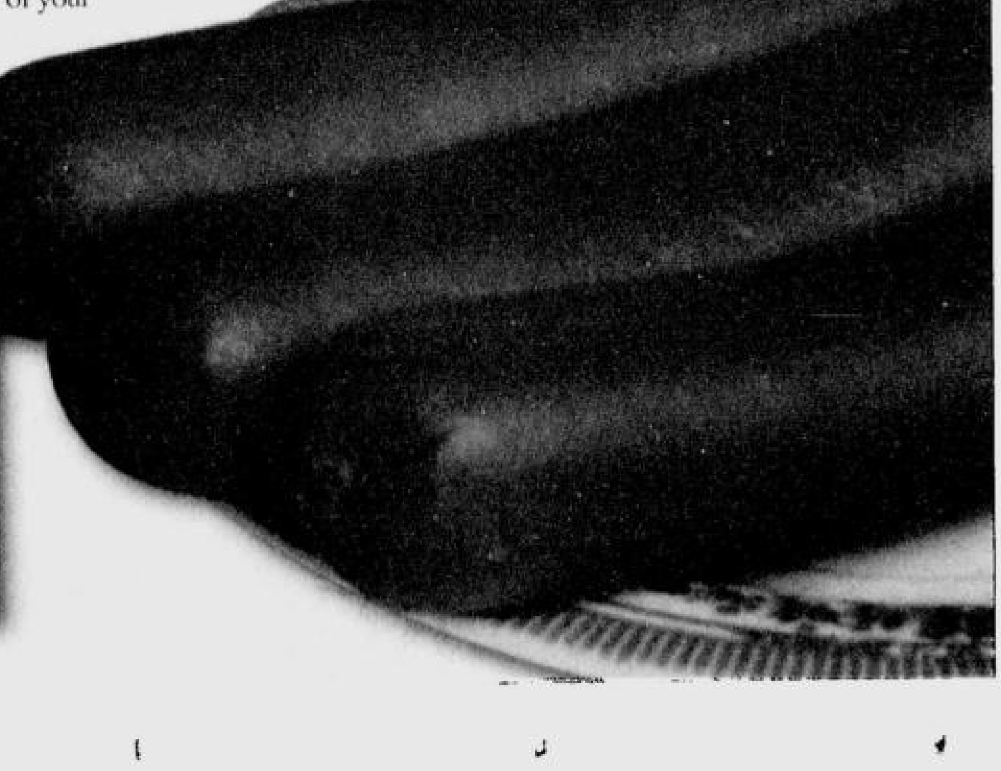
Inulin Fiber is now used in a wide range of product categories such as spreads, biscuits, yogurts, bakery goods, dairy drinks, and processed meat products.

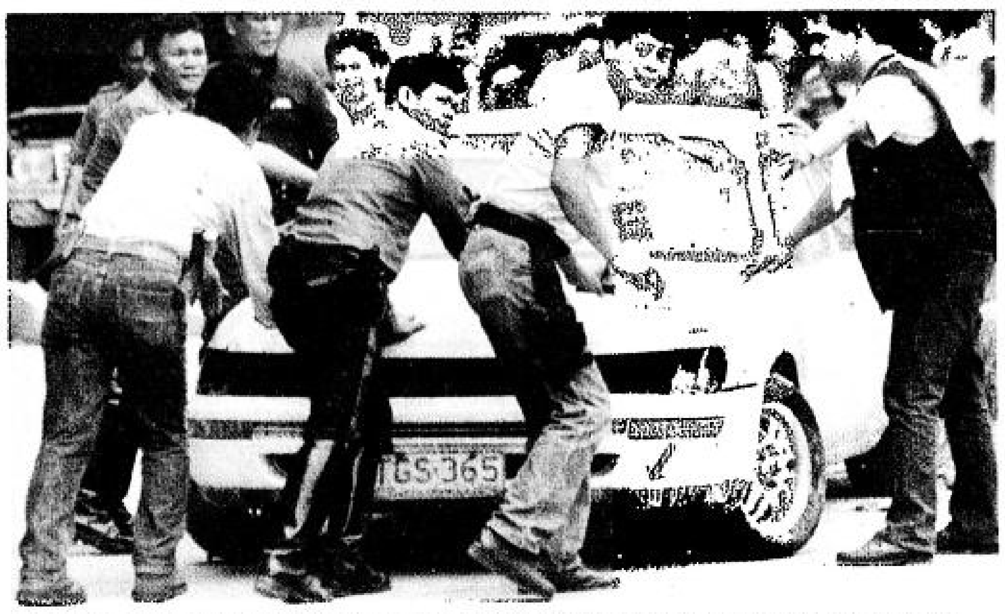
Health experts rule that a person needs to have an intake of 20 to 35 grams of fiber a day. According to a World Health Organization report, almost everyone in the world eats less than the recommended dietary allowance of fiber.

Most Asians do not traditionally include fiber-rich foods in the breakfast menu, while most Asian children have great cravings for rice and processed meats in their morning meals.

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) notes that a well-nourished child is healthy, strong, and alert, has good disposition, and grows at a normal rate. A poorly nourished child exhibits sluggish if not permanently delayed physical and mental development.

Experts recommend: Serve food with **Inulin Fiber** to your kids and put them on the roadmap to better growth and development.





LAWMEN seize what they claim to be a stolen vehicle in the process of being cannibalized, during a raid at a suspected fence of auto parts in 1999.

PDI FILE

Where you run highest risk of losing your car

By Alcuin Papa

RECORDS show that Quezon City has the highest car theft rate in Metro Manila. But do you want to know which part of that city is the favorite hunting ground of car thieves?

It's the Quezon Avenue-Timog area, dubbed as the "hotspot" of car thieves by police authorities.

Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro, Central Police District director, told reporters recently that "80 percent" of the total number of car theft cases were reported in the area since he assumed his post last September.

"We observed that most of the reports on car theft occur in this area on a daily basis," Castro said.

Although Castro could not say exactly how many cars were stolen in the area over a period of time, he did stress the frequency of car theft incidents along the Quezon-Avenue-Timog stretch.

Castro has a clear theory on why the area has become a favorite among car thieves.

"It's also the entertainment center of the city because of the number of bars and clubs in the area," Castro explained. "The car theft rate is high there because of the high concentration of expensive vehicles."

This observation was echoed by Chief Insp. Remigio Gregorio, chief of the CPD's Anti-Carnapping Unit.

"This is the hotbed of car theft because there are a lot of motorists during lunchtime and especially at night. Most establishments here have small parking spaces so patrons are forced to park from a distance in unguarded areas," Gregorio told the INQUIRER.

He explained that most car theft cases involve cars that are parked, as opposed to cars forcibly taken from owners at gunpoint.

Figures from the CPD showed a total of 21 cars stolen in Quezon City for the month of January.

Four of these thefts were reported at the CPD Police Station 10 in Kamuning and the CPD Police Station 2 in Baler. Both police stations have jurisdiction over the Quezon Avenue-Timog area.

Gregorio advised motorists to use security measures like steering wheel locks when parking their cars in the area, aside from activating their car alarms.

Last year, a total of 439 cars were stolen in Quezon City, or 1.2 cars stolen everyday. In December, a total of 30 cars were stolen in the city.

Recently, Castro ordered the deployment of some 30 motorcycle units to patrol the area in an effort to bring the car theft rate down.

Quezon City is known as the car theft center of Metro Manila because of its high car theft rate among the other cities and municipalities.

No end to ordeal as barangay chair stand conflicts with DILG order

By Leila Salaverria

THEY have been assured by the Interior and Local Government Department that they could stay on their land, but for residents of Purok 5 in Barangay San Cristobal, Calamba, Laguna, their ordeal is not over.

DILG personnel sent by Secretary Joey Lina to investigate the land dispute have told the residents that they could remain in Purok 5 unless a court orders their eviction, the residents said.

But according to Vangie Entiate, one of those living in the area, fear still gnaws at their hearts even if the demolitions have stopped. Reason: they continue to receive eviction notices from a businessman who claims ownership of the land.

They do not know what to do, she said.

She said Barangay Chairperson Narciso Tangcangco had told the residents that the title for the land shown by the businessman is genuine.

Tangcangco also denied an earlier complaint that he has been ignoring the residents' pleas during a meeting with the DILG personnel, said Entiate.

Tancangco claimed it was the residents who bypassed him in asking for help.

However, Entiate also denied that the residents had ignored Tangcangco.

Earlier, Catherine Cariaga, another Purok 5 resident, said she and her neighbors were being ignored by officials whom they had asked for help.

She has said that as far as the residents know, no title has been issued for their area because they practically live in the water.

Purok 5 residents have complained that five of their neighbors' homes have been demolished, while tension has mounted after a wall was started to be built around their area.

Nayon ordered to transfer to Clark

By Tonette Orejas,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE NAYONG Pilipino will be transferred to a 30-hectare land in the Clark Special Economic Zone, right next to the mothballed Expo Pilipino, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said on Friday.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the immediate relocation of the 46-hectare Nayong Pilipino, which for decades had featured in a single setting the replicas of the country's prime tourism destinations.

Gordon, interviewed during the opening of the 8th Philippine International Hot-Air Balloon Festival, said the transfer was conceived to give room to the cargo hub of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

He said another area of the present park site in Pasay City would be turned over to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

The Nayong Pilipino, which was opened in July 1970, was ordered closed to the public on June 25, 2002, to give way to the airport expansion.

Gordon said Ms Macapagal eyed Clark as the next site of the Nayong Pilipino to enhance the potential tourism of the economic zone, which is celebrating its centennial as an American military base this year.

Since the American troops left the field in 1991, after the Senate rejected the extension of the Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement, the government has begun converting Clark in Pampanga and Tarlac, as well as Subic in Bataan and Zambales, as the country's two biggest economic zones.

These zones are now home to some 700 foreign and local companies.

"Expect to see a very, very modern Nayong Pilipino at Clark," Gordon said. "It shall be a big boom to the rest of Central Luzon."

NBI mulls over reopening of Chavez case

From page A23

One of them also told Chavez's father, Efren, that the late officer's wound was not self-inflicted, contrary to official findings by the NBI.

The younger woman officer, the Army source insisted, was a "murder victim."

Jessica's father said his daughter could have been killed because of what she knew about an anomaly involving Army personnel. He has asked both the NBI and the Army, now headed by Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, former Armed Forces deputy chief of staff, to take a second look at the case.

The NBI's Special Action Unit, headed by lawyer Edmundo Arugay, was the lead agency tasked by Wycoco in February 2001 to investigate the case.

Since "all death investigations should be treated as homicide cases" until the facts prove otherwise, SAU investigators checked if there was foul play.

They found none.

But the investigators cited the failure of officers of the 191st MP Battalion to "dutifully preserve the crime scene," prompting the bureau to recommend the filing of appropriate administrative sanctions against them.

Calling it a "cause for concern," the NBI said "this carelessness could have been a result of indiscretion or, to a larger extent, malice."

"However, this alone is not a sufficient basis to approximate foul play, although it somehow affected the (NBI) investigation, which was rendered ineffective by the disorderly handling of the crime scene," according to the SAU report.

In its report, SAU probers noted "investigations have limitations (and) when pieces of evidence are no longer available, they end logically."

They added "the possibility that Chavez committed suicide cannot be ascertained nor her death was accidental because nobody was present but the victim herself."

The INQUIRER sources at Fort Bonifacio, however, said otherwise.

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Speaker: Aaron Tavakoli
Senior Applications Engineer, Adobe

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12:30 - 1:00pm: Registration

1:00 - 3:00pm: Adobe InDesign 2.0
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3:00 - 3:15pm: Tea/Coffee Break

3:15 - 4:15pm: Adobe Acrobat 5.0
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4:15 - 4:30pm: Technical Consultation.

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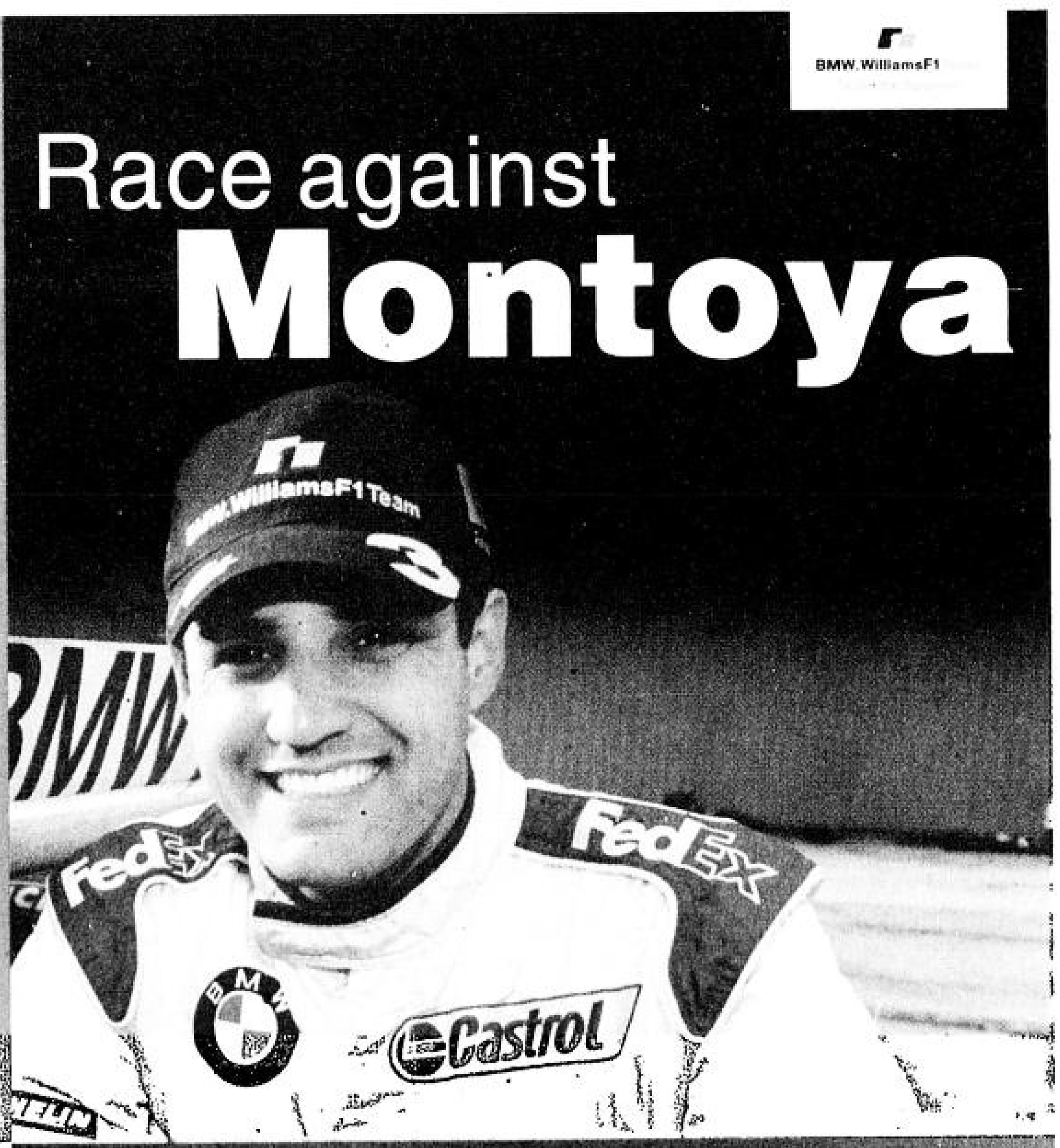

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2. To join the raffle, participant must indicate his name, address, telephone number, signature and the name and address of the store where purchase was made in a piece of paper. Entry must be placed in a white envelope together with two (2) bottle caps of any 1L and 4L Castrol Passenger Car Oil (PCO) product (GTX, GTD, Magnatec) and the proof of purchase (official receipt/invoice). Entries should be dropped at designated drop box centers and outlets on or before February 28, 2003.

3. The drop boxes can be found in any of the following outlets: Greenhills CATS • Europlus Alabang Town Center • F1 Car Accessories & Service Center • Greasebee Auto Care Center Inc • GTS Auto Care Plaza Inc. • Honda Cars Kalookan • Kanejima Chemicals Inc. • NC Valenzuela Commercial • Tasco Inc • Timog Tirehaus

SM Ace Hardware/ Hardware Workshop branches: SM North Edsa Annex • SM Manila • SM North Edsa • SM Megamall • SM Dept Store Quiapo • SM Southmall • SM Dept Store Las Piñas • Festival Mall • SM Dept Store - Makati • SM Fairview • SM Centerpoint Sta. Mesa • SM Cubao • SM Harrison Plaza • SM Ace-Manila • SM Sucat Mall • SM Bicutan

4. The raffle shall be conducted at the G/F Activity Center of SM Megamall Bldg. A at 6:00 pm on March 8, 2003.

5. Customers may also join the video game competition on March 8, 2003 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at the G/F Activity Center of SM Megamall Bldg. A. They must submit two (2) bottle caps of any 1L or 4L Castrol Passenger Car Oil (PCO) product (GTX, GTD, Magnatec) with a proof of purchase (official receipt/ invoice). This entitles them to one (1) session of an intermediate level EA Sports/F1 2002 PC-based video game on a first come first serve basis. He will only be allowed to play one session at a time. However, he may join again upon presentation of the said requirements at the registration area.

6. The customer's fastest time out of 6 lap sessions will be recorded and ranked accordingly. He who finishes the race with the fastest time at the end of the game period at 5:00 pm will be declared as winner.

7. In case of a tie, the winners will be required to play again for one (1) session or additional sessions until the one with the fastest time will be declared as the winner.

8. The raffle winner with his trade partner, and the video game winner with his trade partner, will each be given round trip tickets to Kuala Lumpur with 7 days & 6 nights accommodation (meals not included) to meet and race in an F1 simulator with Juan Pablo Montoya and watch the 2003 Malaysian Grand Prix.

9. Winners and trade partners will be notified via phone call. Prizes must be claimed on or before March 13, 2003 at Castrol Philippines, 30/F LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City upon presentation of a valid passport. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash. Assignee should also present a valid passport accompanied by the winner to claim the prize.

10. Castrol Philippines shall shoulder the 20% withholding tax.

11. Employees of Castrol Philippines, its distributors, dealers, advertising and promotion agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the game and raffle promotions.

12. Promo is valid in GMA only from February 1 - 28, 2003.

For further updates and information, tune in to 103.5 K-Lite throughout the month of February for more details.

The Official Radio Station 103.5 The Right Kind of Life

Castrol

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0183. Series of 2003

For screening times, call 729-7777
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1

1	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
2	I SPY
3	HERO
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

G4 GLORIETTA 4

1	THE EYE
2	I SPY
3	HERO 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30
4	LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
5	THE HOT CHICK
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1	OFF KEY (EXCLUSIVE) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:20

Onstage
OGIE ALCASID: OA SA PUSO
Feb. 13, 14 & 15

GB3 GREENBELT 3

1	HERO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15
3	TWO WEEKS NOTICE 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00
4	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN 12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00
5	I SPY 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
2	HERO
3	I SPY
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
5	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Reserve your seats by texting *SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com
*GSC: Guaranteed Seats Cinema

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	HERO
2 (SDDS)	THE EYE
3 (DTS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4 GOLD (DTS/SDS)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	THE RING
6 GOLD (SDDS)	I SPY
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
8	SUKDULAN
9	BELOW
10	HOT CHICK

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	FEMME FATALE
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	SUKDULAN
2	I SPY
3	BALAT SIBUYAS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	I SPY
2	BELOW
3	BALAT SIBUYAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	HERO
5	SUKDULAN

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	BELOW
2	BALAT SIBUYAS
3	HERO
4	I SPY
5	SUKDULAN
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1	ANALYZE THAT
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

PREMIERE CINEMA
THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13

HERO

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE RING
2	HULA MO HULI KO

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	BALAT SIBUYAS
3	RESERVE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 638.4301 loc. 3376

1	I SPY
2	RESERVE
3	BALAT SIBUYAS
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	HERO
4	BALAT SIBUYAS
5	BELOW
6	SUKDULAN
7 (DTS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
8 (SDDS)	I SPY
9 (DOLBY)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	BALAT SIBUYAS
2	SUKDULAN
3	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4 (SDDS)	I SPY
5	RESERVE
6 (DOLBY)	HERO
7 (DTS)	BELOW
8	HALF PAST DEAD
9	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	BALAT SIBUYAS
2 (SDDS)	I SPY
3 (DTS)	SUKDULAN
4 (DOLBY)	HERO
5	BELOW

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	HERO
2	SUKDULAN
3 (DTS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4	BALAT SIBUYAS
5 (SDDS)	I SPY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BALAT SIBUYAS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SUKDULAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BALAT SIBUYAS
Lords	BALAT SIBUYAS
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HERO
2	SUKDULAN
3	I SPY
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	I SPY
2	HERO
3	BALAT SEBUYAS
4	SUKDULAN
5	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	BALAT SEBUYAS
2	SUKDULAN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	SUKDULAN
2	THE RING
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I SPY
4 (SDDS)	HERO
5 (DTS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
6	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
7	BELOW

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	BALAT SIBUYAS
2	I SPY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926, 534-2185

1	I SPY
2	SUKDULAN
3 (DTS)	HERO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SUKDULAN
2 (DTS)	I SPY
3 (DOLBY)	HERO
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	SUKDULAN
2 (DOLBY)	I SPY
3 (DTS)	HERO
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE RING
2	HOT CHICK
3 (DOLBY)	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	SPECIAL SCREENING
2	SPECIAL SCREENING
3 (DOLBY)	THE RING
4 (DTS)	SUKDULAN

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	THE RING
2 (DTS)	SUKDULAN
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	AUSTIN POWER
2	BALAT SIBUYAS
3 (DTS)	SUKDULAN
4	UNFAITFUL CONCUBINE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HERO
2	I SPY
3 (DTS)	SUKDULAN
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
5	KERIDA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Binan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HERO
2	SUKDULAN
3	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	HERO
2	I SPY
3	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	THE RING
2	SUKDULAN
3 (DTS)	HOT CHICK
4 (SDDS)	EIGHT MILE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	SUKDULAN
3	THE RING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0798

1	SUKDULAN
2	THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	ANLYZE THAT

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	I SPY
2	SUKDULAN
3 (DTS-ES)	TRY SEVENTEEN
4	MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	TRY SEVENTEEN
2	REPLIKATE
3 (DOLBY)	I SPY
4 (DTS)	ONE HOUR PHOTO

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

sandra BULLOCK
hugh GRANT

Over. Done. Finished.

Two Weeks Notice

A comedy about love at last glance.

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
2	SUKDULAN
3	HERO
4	BELOW
5	I SPY
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7	BALAT SIBUYAS
8	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

SM CENTERPOINT
7149622 -7161416

1	I SPY
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4	BALAT SIBUYAS
5	HERO
6	HOT CHICK
7	RING (JAPANESE)
8	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
9	SUKDULAN
10	BELOW

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	TRY SEVENTEEN
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	HALF PAST DEAD
4	I SPY
5	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
6	SUKDULAN
7	HERO
8	BELOW
9	BALAT SIBUYAS
10	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
11	HOT CHICK
12	THE RING

SM CITY MANILA
5238240

1	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	HOT CHICK
4	HERO
5	I SPY
6	HERO
7	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
8	RING (JAPANESE)
9	THE EYE
10	BELOW
11	TRY 17
12	SUKDULAN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	HERO
2	I SPY
3	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4	HERO
5	THE EYE
6	RING (HOLLYWOOD)
7	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
8	BELOW
9	SUKDULAN
10	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
11	HOT CHICK
12	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	BELOW
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	HOT CHICK
4	SUKDULAN
5	THE EYE
6	HERO
7	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
8	I SPY

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
2	BELOW
3	HERO
4	I SPY
5	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
7	SUKDULAN
8	THE EYE
9	RING (JAPANESE)
10	BALAT SIBUYAS

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2	HOT CHICK
3	TRY SEVENTEEN
4	ONE HOUR PHOTO
5	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
6	SUKDULAN
7	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
8	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	SUKDULAN
2	CLOSED
3	HOT CHICK
4	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
6	ANALYZE THAT
7	CLOSED
8	BANGKERO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	I SPY
2	ONE HOUR PHOTO
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	BANGKERO
5	TRY SEVENTEEN
6	SUKDULAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294675

1	SUKDULAN
2	I SPY
3	HERO
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	I SPY
2	SUKDULAN
3	HERO
4	BALAT SIBUYAS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	TRY SEVENTEEN
2	HEAVEN
3	VAMPS
4	HOT CHICK
5	ANALYZE THAT
6	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	HERO
2	SUKDULAN
3	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4	I SPY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2	ONE HOUR PHOTO
3	HOT CHICK
4	8 MILE

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	HERO 11:15 MF/11:45 /2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE 11:15 MF/11:45 /2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls
call-a-movie: 536- 7812
NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	HERO
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3	HERO
4	BELOW
5	I SPY
6	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	THE EYE
9	HOT CHICK
10	SUKDULAN

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	HERO
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	BELOW
4	THE EYE
5	SUKDULAN
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7	I SPY

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	THE RING (US VERSION)
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	I SPY
5	HERO
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7	BELOW
8	SUKDULAN

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	HERO
2	RING (JAPANESE VERSION)
3	I SPY
4	SUKDULAN
5	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7	BELOW
8	HOT CHICK

Malabon Citisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1	HERO
2	SUKDULAN
3	I SPY
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270

1	ONE HOUR PHOTO
2	SUKDULAN
3	TRY SEVENTEEN
4	I SPY
5	BANGKERO
6	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	HERO
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	I SPY
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
5	SUKDULAN
6	BALAT SIBUYAS

Sta. Rosa Laguna
049-8370907

1	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
2	HERO
3	I SPY
4	SUKDULAN
5	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	LORD OF THE RINGS II
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	HOT CHICK
4	ANALYZE THAT
5	SUKDULAN
6	BANGKERO

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	LORD OF THE RING II
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	HOT CHICK
4	ANALYZE THAT
5	SUKDULAN
6	BANGKERO

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Kilayko holds piano concert in Bacolod

INTERNATIONAL concert pianist Leonor Kilayko will perform on Feb. 9, 7 p.m. at the La Proa I of the L Fisker Hotel in Bacolod City.

The piano concert is presented by the Silay Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization whose main concern is the preservation of one of the museums in the province of Negros, the Bernardino Jalandoni House in Silay.

Kilayko lived in Cologne, Germany for 17 years.

German Ambassador Herbert Jesse and his wife will go to Bacolod for today's concert.

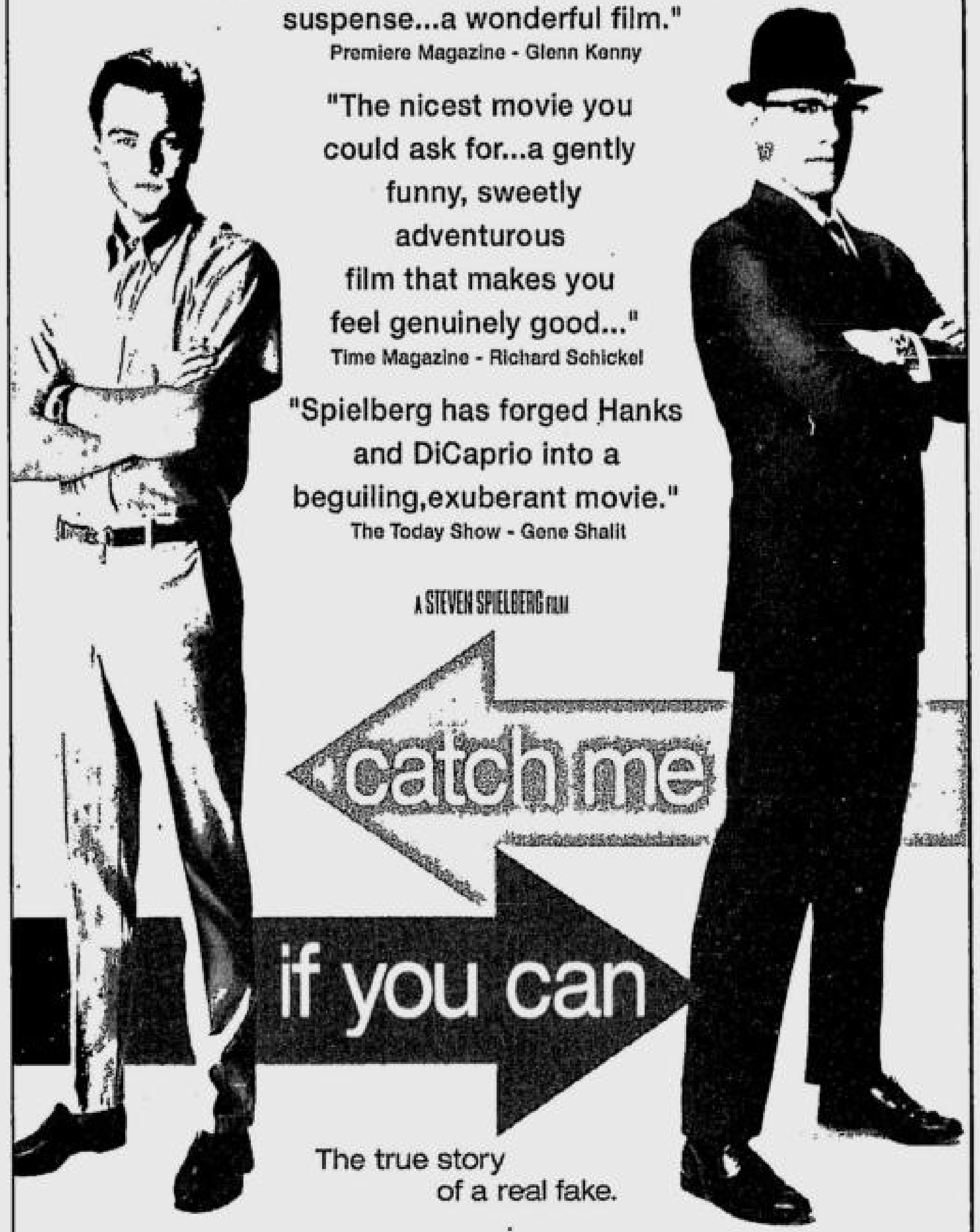
Love is here to stay... so is her family

AYALA CINEMAS
Laugh out loud & fall in love when America's No. 1 Romantic Comedy Returns at
GREENBELT 1
MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
" Two Thumbs up!"
Elbert & Roeper
" One party you shouldn't miss"
George Permacchio, KABC-TV
" Heartfelt & Hilarious!"
Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
Opens February 12, 2003
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

FALL IN LOVE AGAIN
WITH THE COUNTRY'S MOST ROMANTIC LOVETEAM
OPENS FEBRUARY 26
Onemig Bondoc
Jericho Rosales
Kristine Hermosa
Ngayong Nandito Ka
Directed by:
Jerry Lopez Sineneng
ILLUSTRAZIO bags Carry Your Lifestyle
Walker
STAR CINEMA PRODUCTIONS INC

OPENS WEDNESDAY !
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
1. Truly a magnificent film. Bravo, Magnifico! – Butch Francisco, *The Phil. Star*
2. The first really good movie of 2003! – Lito B. Zulueta, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*
3. Magnifico is Magnificent! – Mario Hernando, *Malaya*
4. "Pang-Oscar ang kalidad ng Magnifico" – Archie de Calma, *Imbestigador*
5. "Would that we all support this movie with lots of heart and the strength of its quite and hopeful honesty." – Rina Jimenez-David, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*
6 The whole thing is very Pinoy and is a particularly welcome intrusion in our times when people are despairing in this country.– Conrado de Quiros, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*
LORNA TOLENTINO
Ms. GLORIA ROMERO Ms. CELIA RODRIGUEZ AMY AUSTRIA
MARK GIL CHERRY PIE PICACHE
ALBERT MARTINEZ TONTON GUTIERREZ
DANILO BARRIOS
JIRO MANIO as
MAGNIFICO
Introducing
GIRLIE SEVILLA
Walang katumbas ang wagas na pagmamahal
ALLISON VII GONZALES
JON ROMANO & SUSAN AFRICA
ISABELLA DE LEON
DINDIN LLARENA JOSEPH ROBLE
Theme song sung by:
GARY VALENCIANO
Aantig sa yong puso! Pupukaw sa yong damdamin!
All-Star Cast
Violett
Directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes, DGPI
A Violett Films Production
RELEASED THROUGH GMA FILMS

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
"Catch it while you can. Movies don't get much more fun than this. One of the best films of the year."
Good Morning America - Joel Siegel
leonardo dicaprio tom hanks
"It's a tribute to Spielberg's gifts as a director of suspense...a wonderful film."
Premiere Magazine - Glenn Kenny
"The nicest movie you could ask for...a gently funny, sweetly adventurous film that makes you feel genuinely good..."
Time Magazine - Richard Schickel
"Spielberg has forged Hanks and DiCaprio into a beguiling,exuberant movie."
The Today Show - Gene Shalit
A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
catch me if you can
The true story of a real fake.
DREAMWORKS PICTURES PRESENTS A KEMP COMPANY AND SPLENDID PICTURES PRODUCTION A PARKES/MacDONALD PRODUCTION A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
LEONARDO DiCAPRIO TOM HANKS "CATCH ME IF YOU CAN" CHRISTOPHER WALKEN MARTIN SHEEN NATHALIE BAYE
united international pictures
NOW SHOWING
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED Parents are strongly warned against bringing children below 13. Some scenes can offend them.
MAGNA CUM-MEDYA!
PELIKULANG MALAPIT SA PUSO. AT MALAYO SA UTAK.
AB noRMaL College
ToDO Na 'yAn! KULaNG Pa 'Yun!
B.A. sa kalokohan, Masters sa katatawanan!
Directed by Al Tantay
PASUKAN NA SA FEB. 12!

BA
KU
MIKEY arroyo
ANDREW E.
RUFA MAE quinto
PATRICIA javier
OGIE alcasid
introducing Jenny Rosendahl

Obsession with sex

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AMONG the improvements we want to see on the entertainment scene this year is the realization by the local movie people and their audience that sex flicks are a bane on the industry.

All too often, film people rationalize the strong sexual orientation of their productions by saying that the industry needs to make them to survive, it's what the audience wants, it's an expression of film freedom, etc.

On the other hand, bold movies demean women by using them as sex objects, make male viewers think it's macho to exploit women, appeal to viewers basest instincts, ignore other more valid film themes, lower filmmakers aesthetic standard and promote wrong values.

Clearly, the local movie industry cannot continue to be sex-driven, and viewers should stop patronizing cheap sex flicks.

It's also important to end the sequential "transformation" of young actresses from wholesome performers to cynically pragmatic sex "goddesses." They rationalize their decision to "act" in erotic films by claiming that it's "art," but they're actually doing it because it's the quickest way for them to attain stardom.

Unfortunately, when one young beauty does attain stardom this way, she encourages a dozen other impatient starlets to also go the sex-film route, thus compounding the negative example set by their "exploitation with consent."

Years ago, most of our female sex-flick performers were recruited in sleazy places. These days, they come from "good" families and "exclusive" schools, thus persuading other "classy" women to also bare and dare.

It's time to end this recruitment by seductive example, because it cheapens and corrupts not just the young women involved, but also members of the movie audience, who develop a low appreciation of love, sex and life.

Logically, the best way to put a stop to the movie industry's obsession with sex would be to convince producers, directors and performers to turn over a new leaf. Unfortunately, many of them enjoy the perks that this trend has provided them, for them to give it up without a fight.

So, we must turn to the members of the movie audience. If you agree that the sex craze in local movies has more negative effects than positive ones, stop patronizing sexy films from here on in.

And, unlike some other resolutions, make sure you stick to this one. Let's clear the air and start afresh, appreciating the richness of life in all its aspects, not just our basest instincts.

'Legacy 2003'

THE CITY of Manila, Island Finds and Ayala Center is staging "Celebrating Being Filipino: Legacy 2003" at Glorietta 1 from Feb. 10 to 16, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Twenty-one participants will celebrate National Arts Month of Rotary International.

They include **Carol Tanjutco**, a New York-based painter; the Paete Carvers Association, sculptor and TOYM awardee **Juan Sajid**; watercolor painter **Fernando Catague**; sculptor **Benji Reyes**, and artists and artisans from tribal, rural and urban communities, through entrepreneurs promoting their handcrafted products.

Ratzhadi Ani of Sulu Arts and crafts joins **Tony Cervantes** of Island Finds in showcasing the intricate artifacts of Mindanao's Muslim and non-Muslim tribes.

Other exhibits are by **Narda Capuyan** of Narda's, **Rose Dinang Laed** of Kalinga Handwoven and Antiques, **Ana Juco** of OLM Treasures, Islander Ethnic Arts, Black Myxz, Epikurya, Zagu Food Corporation, Sodaco, Michelle Gifts and Jewellry, and Bisazza Philippines.

Daily demonstrations by artists and artisans are on embroidery, basket-weaving, accessory-making, painting and carving. Call Museo ng Makati at 896-2464 or Island Finds at 374-3549.

'Pelikula at Lipunan'

DON'T miss these treats at the Pelikula at Lipunan filmfest opening on Feb. 12 at SM Megamall:

"El Crimen del Padre Amaro," 9:30 p.m., Feb. 12 (opening film), from Mexico.

"Bollywood Hollywood" by India's **Deepa Mehta**, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.

"A Transistor Love Story" by Thailand's **Pen-ek Ratanaruang**, Feb. 14, 9:30 p.m.

"Titus" by **Julie Taymor** (she directed the stage musical hit, "The Lion King"), Feb. 15, 9:30 p.m.

"All About Lily Chou Chou" by Japan's **Shunji Iwai**, Feb. 16 at 9:30 p.m.

"Small Home" by **Koji Imaizumi**, Feb. 16 and 17 at 6:30 p.m. A Japan-Philippines co-production.

"Punch Drunk Love" by **P.T. Anderson**, Feb. 18, 9:30 p.m.

Finally, we hear that the Oscar favorite "The Hours" by **Stephen Daldry**, may be shown at the festival on Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. The acclaimed film topbills **Nicole Kidman, Meryl Streep** and **Julianne Moore**. Call 727-1915.

'Toughest dog race'

ON MONDAY, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m., the National Geographic Channel will document the world's toughest dog race with "Yukon Quest: The Spirit of the North."

The Yukon race battles through a thousand miles of bleak winter wilderness between Alaska and Canada. No race forces both mushers and dogs to rely so heavily on each other for survival, and no sled race is so carefully monitored by veterinarians.

No ban on Patricia's concert

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

DESPITE the threat of a moralist group to ban the forthcoming concert of **Patricia Javier** at the Folk Arts Theater, "Too Hot To Handle," on Feb. 12, producer **David Lao** of Prelude Entertainment announced "it's all systems go" for Patricia's show.

The Philippine Alliance Against Pornography, through spokesperson **Boy Blue Filomeno**, wrote the INQUIRER and said they are deeply shocked and alarmed about Patricia's upcoming concert, which will include a shower scene and passionate bed scene onstage.

The group said they have written the office of Manila Mayor **Lito Atienza** to take appropriate action on the matter and prevent Patricia's scandalous acts.

Yet, David said they have checked with the office of Mayor Atienza and even with Pasay City Mayor **Peewee Trinidad** if there was a complaint filed by the group, and they found out there was none.

So Patricia is set to titillate audiences in "Too Hot To Handle" on Feb. 12. The show is the second production venture of Prelude Entertainment.

Patricia will actually offer a double treat to her fans that same day, when her movie for Viva Films, "AB Normal College," also opens in theaters.

She proves to be a femme fatale even on the big screen, as she plays the daughter of a school canteen owner who falls in love with **Ogie Alcasid**.

The comedy flick, directed by **Al Tantay**, also stars **Mikey Arroyo, Andrew E., Rufa Mae Quinto**, newcomer **Jenny Rosendahl, Rico J. Puno** and the rap group **Salbakuta**.

It will be remembered that it was Viva Films which gave Patricia her launching picture with "Ang Kabit ni Mrs. Montero." Yet, even if she debuted in a sexy drama flick, Patricia found out she was also comfortable doing comedy.

She has starred with **Eddie Garcia** and **Blakdyak** in a comedy movie, that's why when another offer came for her to do comedy, Patricia didn't pass up the chance.

"It's really fun because it's not that exhausting and you get to be kooky on the set," she maintains. "I love working with comedians because they really make me laugh while filming."

Patricia who has conquered armies of male fans sharing collective fantasies about her, will also get to do private phone chats through a new hotline opened by PLDT.

By simply dialing 1-908-1-143144, one can get to talk to Patricia, who dares to bare to her callers anything about her life, secret desires and fantasies.

It is the closest that male fans can get to Patricia and listen to her private bedtime stories.

Patricia has gained fame as one of the screen's hottest female actresses. Recently, she proved she could also conquer the music world when she launched her solo CD under EMI Music Philippines.

The exclusive chat session with Patricia is a one-on-one experience made possible by the popular hotline PLDT Lovenotes, with Joe D' Mango giving advice to the lovelorn.

"PLDT's move toward its landline phone services remain to be one of our major thrusts," says **Jon-Jon Agustin**, vice president for marketing of PLDT.

"We believe the partnership with Patricia will prove to be a breakthrough in combining our dominant landline network with entertainment."

A personal call to Patricia can be made for only P10 per minute.

SEXY TREAT. Patricia Javier in a concert, movie and private phone chat.

Clarification

TINTIN Bersola, erstwhile host of "Talk TV," was on the phone Friday afternoon, reacting to my column that day about GMA 7's "Sis," hosted by **Janice** and **Gelli de Belen**.

Tintin pointed out "Talk TV" came ahead of "Sis."

"Talk TV," which she hosts with her real-life boyfriend **Julius Babao, Ryan Agoncillo** and **Janet McBride**, was aired on March 16, 2001. At that time, "Talk TV" was up against **Dina Bonnevie's** "Ms. D" on GMA 7.

"The format of 'Talk TV' was experimental, with two pairs as hosts, but it worked," Tintin said.

"We believe we redefined the morning audience, which used to be just for mothers or housewives. The Pinoy Central survey would attest to this."

"Talk TV" went off the air middle of last year and it was replaced by "Morning Girls," with **Kris Aquino, Pops Fernandez** and **Zsa Zsa Padilla**.

However, Tintin said that right after "Talk TV" was axed, viewers still preferred their show over its replacement.

"Viewers were looking for it and wondering why it was prematurely cut off. Why fix something that is not broken, right?" Tintin said.

"But due to cost-cutting, 'Talk TV' began to air several week-long replays, but still got double-digit ratings and higher than 'Sis,' thereby justifying the many replays.

"Unfortunately and quite expectedly, the frequent replays eventually backlashed and gave 'Sis' a chance to gain an audience.

"A daily show can't always win ratings wise on a daily basis. You win some, you lose some. There were so many factors to consider and in the case of 'Talk TV,' they were mostly technical and internal.

"Despite the odds, we, the hosts can hold our heads up high up to now, because we bowed out while we were on top of the ratings game.

"Let it be put on record that even during our final week of airing, that Monday, we rated a 20-plus percent and on our last day, we rated a good 15 percent, still higher than 'Sis.'

"On a quarterly and monthly average, 'Talk TV' rated higher. Our show went on air for one year and four months."

Jamie sings for commemorative religious CDs

OCTOBER 2002-2003 has officially been declared the Year of the Most Holy Rosary.

Star Records, as part of its contribution to the celebration of the important eucharistic event, has released a special commemorative album, "Mysteria Lucis (The Mysteries of Light)."

The album introduces the new luminous mysteries set forth by Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae. In that apostolic letter, the Pope decreed the Year of the Rosary and proposed the addition of five new luminous mysteries for the faithful to meditate on, hoping to revive among Catholics the habit of praying the rosary daily.

The five new luminous mysteries are the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan; the Wedding at Cana; the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God; the Transfiguration and the Institution of the Eucharist.

The album "Mysteria Lucis" is a combination songbook, rosary guide and prayer book. It starts off with an introduction to the Mysteries of Light led by former President Corazon Aquino, with opening prayers by Jaime Cardinal Sin, Fr. Patrick Peyton and Bishop Socrates Villegas.

Also on the album are two tracks by Jamie Rivera. The first is the English song "The Mysteries of Light," written by Fr. Carlo Magno Marcelo and performed by Jamie with 92 AD.

There is also a Latin version, "Mysteria Lucis," written by Jun Cruz, with guitars by Noel Mendez and featuring the Legato Strings.

Listeners are also led through a recitation of the five new luminous mysteries led by former President Corazon Aquino (first mystery), Jaime Cardinal Sin (second mystery), Rev. Fr. Patrick Peyton (third mystery), Ricardo Cardinal Vidal (fourth mystery) and Bishop Socrates Villegas (fifth mystery).

It also includes concluding prayers and a scriptural meditation developed by Fr. Carlo Magno Marcelo.

EUCHARISTIC MEET. Jamie with (from left) Ming Tiñana, TV supervisor of Star Records; Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo and Papal Legate Alfonso Treyillo during the Fourth World Meeting of Families at the Luneta Grandstand.

"Mysteria Lucis" comes in CDs and cassettes, so one can listen and silently pray the rosary even on the road. It is available at churches and major record stores and outlets.

Jamie recently received a platinum award for her version of "Only Selfless Love," the theme song of the Fourth World Meeting of Families held recently in Manila.

"Only Selfless Love" and "Mysteria Lucis" are from Star Records.

TRIPLE TREAT. Nonoy Zuñiga, Marco Sison and Rico J. Puno.

Three icons and a show

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

EACH is a music icon in his own way. A doctor whose soothing voice will always be identified with some of the best ballads in Philippine music. A "kilabot ng mga kolehiyala" whose suave singing and looks refuse to age. And a plain "kilabot" whose raspy, smoky voice will always be associated with his humor and wit.

Nonoy Zuñiga, Marco Sison and Rico J. Puno give music lovers young and old a triple treat when they perform together at the Music Museum for three nights this Valentine's month in "The Greatest Hits II" series, produced by Viva Concerts. It is the first time the three music men are together in one show.

"I consider it a great honor and privilege to share the stage and my talents with Rico and Marco," says Nonoy, the singing physician. "We treat Rico as an elder brother, our 'kuya,' and we idolize him. We credit him as the singer responsible for promoting original Pilipino music. He set a trend in music when he infused Pilipino lyrics in his version of 'The Way We Were'."

Moral support

After Nonoy lost a leg in a bombing at a five-star hotel in Manila in the early Eighties, it took him a long time to recover. Rico was among the very first ones to offer moral support, Nonoy recalls.

"He told me never to lose hope and he suggested ways of reviving my singing career," Nonoy says. "At that time, I thought I was finished as far as my career was concerned.

"I cannot forget one bit of advice he gave me. Use a cane and have it designed in different colors. It would be my trademark, like Freddie Aguilar's hat and long hair. Rico always reminded me that it was not my voice that I lost. I appreciate his advice. It restored my self-confidence."

Like Rico J, Nonoy also entered politics but, unlike Rico, he was not successful. Wrong timing, Nonoy says of his political attempt.

Rico is a Makati City councilor. Marco won in his first try at an elective post two years ago and intends to run again in the 2004 elections.

Doctor Zuñiga still performs in shows for Filipino communities overseas, where he is invariably requested to sing "Never Ever Say Goodbye," one of his biggest hits from the '80s.

Comic relief

Marco is another well travelled entertainer and also a favorite among Filipino overseas workers In the Music Museum show, he will also pay tribute to Rico J whose birthday falls on Valentine's Day.

How will Marco make sure that the he will survive a seasoned scene stealer like Rico J, who is always armed with a bagful of surefire jokes?

"*Okay nga 'yon*," Marco says. "He will be our comic relief because it will be monotonous kung straight singing *ang mangyayari* through the show. We are not here to compete with one another, Valentine's Day or not. Our singing will be coming from our hearts.

"Nonoy and I are products of the '80s and we are bringing good memories of that era," adds Marco.

Rico is both a singer and a comedian, a walking book of jokes, mostly sex jokes. His shows are often best described as adult entertainment.

Rico opened the "Greatest Hits" series last year with five sold-out performances together with Rey Valera and Hajji Alejandro. The shows were so succesful. Viva added more performances.

Jokingly as usual, Rico claims he revived the singing careers of Rey and Hajji.

Censored part

"*Iba ngayon ang mga kasama ko*," Rico adds. "Both are known to be the best balladeers. And they are both young so there is nothing to revive. It will be a battle of ballads. I won't tell you what my act would be. It will be a surprise. *Dito ako babawi*." He makes it sound like a warning.

The Feb. 14 show will stick to the original concept of non-stop hits, says director Roxanne Lapuz. Expect Rico to sing Marco hits, and vice versa, and Nonoy to interpret Rico's hits like "Kapalaran."

"We will leave the censored portions to Rico since that is his department," says Nonoy.

"*Hindi namin kayang sabayan si Rico sa pagiging berde*," says Marco.

Raymond Lauchengco, himself a singer, is the show's TV director. Willy Cruz is the musical director.

Regine feels happy . . .

From page A29

my dad gets most of the publicity because he always accompanies me, and because my mom is shy. She's a true blue *probinsyana*. She's very conservative. Even now, there are some things about this business that she still doesn't understand," Regine says.

Cheerfulness

Although her dad, she adds, is "the joker in the family," Regine thinks she got her natural cheerfulness from her mom.

"My mom is the funniest human being I've ever met. She has this incredible sense of humor. She finds humor in anything and everything. She's also very *malambing*. She always tells me she loves me. When I talk to her on the phone, she says I love you, even when we're just on the Intercom, she says I love you. She's so sweet!"

I always believed that to be rich, beautiful and famous is to risk losing ordinary human happiness. Life, if not altogether fair, should at least provide some bargaining chips for the burdened, some leverage to the many people who are struggling to stay afloat and eke out a living.

Common people should at least be able to experience the simple joys that the rich, beautiful and famous can't because of their privileged lives. That should be the tradeoff.

But then, maybe before me, this person who's been bucking the odds since she was a child deserves to be the exception.

Maybe she deserves to be spared the double-edged sword of celebrity. Maybe, as the proverb goes, she deserves to have her cake and eat it, too.

Why not, if she's remained true to herself? Why not this Regine, who doesn't have a gilded cage story to tell, whose life in the rarefied realms of fame doesn't need to be brought down to earth, for there her feet are and have always been firmly planted?

If there is any celebrity who keeps us alive in the darkness and whose happiness we should wish for in turn, I guess it should be her

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Regine feels happy, blessed and complete

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

OUR culture is obsessed by the concept of celebrity. How else can one explain the plague of publicity that descends on actors, singers and other public figures when they make appearances, or the popularity of gossip magazines and TV shows?

Celebrities are like royalty—glamorous and untouchable, they become objects of unreasonable adulation.

But there are real people behind the luminous images we see on multiplex screens, TV, wall-size posters and billboards.

These are the ones we want to know—or the ones we think we want to know, since, as in everything else in reality, the real lives of these people we idolize might often fall short of our expectations.

In any case, a bustling movie set, with its whole caboose of distractions, is not the best place to interview celebrity artists, not when you intend to ask them questions that you hope would lead to moments of silence, the kind of silence you get when truths are about to be told.

It's hard to imagine how such revelations could be gotten here, among crew members and filmmakers, amid all the work that needs to be done to create the illusions that motion pictures peddle to hope-hungry masses. This is the world of stars—more surreal than anything you've ever seen in films depicting the world of stars.

NOT WAITING FOR HER PRINCE. Regine Velasquez says she doesn't need a partner to make her happy.

Ponderous

But I was being presumptuous. Because, to begin with, even in a less busy, more ponderous and playful atmosphere, I might not have the questions that would induce the moments of silence and truths that I spoke of. And, as I would find out later, even if I did have those questions, Regine Velasquez is not the celebrity upon whom those questions would work.

I would have loved to see Regine in a moment of diva pique, to hear her in a forlorn voice talk about how every facet of her life is splashed around like entertainment. I imagined myself nodding and showing sympathy for the public scrutiny that has made her even more incandescent and out of reach. But such was not to happen. Regine is not a wild, unreal creature in need of taming and realness. On the contrary, she was as real as she could get, considering that she had to talk to a stranger, in between takes, a stranger who asked questions that had nothing to do with the movie she's doing ("Pangarap Kong Ibigin Ka" with Christopher De Leon) or the concert she's promoting ("Songbird sings Legrand," at the PICC on the Feb. 14, 15 and 16).

Regine rises from her.chair after the nth take of a particular scene. For a moment before we were introduced, I thought I saw a look that seemed to say, "Oh no, not another interview."

"Tired?" I asked. "No, it's okay," she replies smiling instantly.

Pleasantries

She excuses herself to change for another scene and manages more than a modicum of grace and luminescence as she exchanges pleasantries with some of the film crew along the way.

I know stars like Regine are required to turn on the wattage that makes people melt in their presence, but a member of the crew swears her niceness is genuine. Later, Regine herself would say that she makes a conscious effort to be nice to everybody all the time.

"I would always be asked that question: How do you want to be remembered? And I used to give those standards answers like, 'a performer who gives it everything she's got,' 'a great singer' or whatever. But, really, I just want to be remembered as a nice person. I make quite an effort to be one," she says.

"The fame thing isn't really real," Julia Roberts' character, Anna Scott, said in the film "Notting Hill," and she may have been right.

Regine, if she was not popular, could have been just a girl, one who's comfortable with herself, a pleasure to talk to, even if we only talked for a while.

She's a completely ordinary mortal who is perhaps better at being diffident, abashed and self-effacing than most of us. And unlike Anna Scott or Francine, her character in that movie she did with Robin Padilla ("Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw"), she doesn't think fame has been a handicap to her personal happiness. It hasn't been the corrupting force that has made a lot of other celebrities miserable. She actually likes being the Regine Velasquez she is now.

"I'm very contented with my life. It could be better, but I don't think I have the right to complain. Ever since I was a little girl, I have always wanted to be a singer. Maybe I didn't dream about being an actor, but I always wanted to be a performer. I wanted to make albums and do concerts," she said. "Everything I dreamed of, I got them all. Of course, I had to work very hard to get them, but I got them."

Anonymous

I asked her: "Has there ever been a time you thought you're in the wrong business? Do you ever miss anything about being anonymous?

"I don't want to be anyone else. I feel really blessed living this life," she says. "You know what, people say this job is very hard, and it is. But in any job you have to work hard to achieve whatever it is that you want. This job is relatively easy. Sure *mahirap siya* because of the schedule, but I would not exchange it for anything. Because of this business I was able to help my family, *napagtapos ko sa pag-aaral yung mga kapatid ko*, which I consider a great achievement, and best of all, I'm being paid for something I love to do!"

It's hard to argue with success, but still, I wondered, shall I take her word more or less at face value or is she just turning on that wattage again? Her life surely can't be without its quibbles.

Regine would admit that she has some, but they turn out to be quibbles that one would most likely hear from just about any busy body, not just from a superstar.

For instance, she rues about not having the time to watch the films that she'd really like to watch on the big screen, like "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers." She tells me the last movie she saw in a theater was "A Walk To Remember," where she cried along with most of the people in the audience.

She also can't remember the last time she dated and says it would be nice if she could do so this year. She says she'd like to have a boyfriend, but even when she macroscopically grapples with the problem of love, she sounds very "un-movie-like."

> Behind the luminous image is a completely ordinary mortal who is perhaps better at being diffident, abashed and self-effacing than most of us

Flattered

She's not waiting for a prince charming to save her from anything.

"I feel I'm complete. And I'm flattered when people say that I don't seem to need a man to make me happy because that's true. I'm already happy. I don't need a partner to make me happy. I should be happy. I should be complete. When I get a partner he's not going to be able to fill up what's missing in me because, that's me," she says. "Sometimes, you don't even know what's missing in you. You yourself have to figure it out and make yourself whole, not someone else!"

"If somebody interesting comes along, he'll just add new colors to my life. I've always thought like that. I don't want to settle for just anyone. I won't go into a relationship just for the sake of having a boyfriend. I want to really be in love. The guy doesn't even have to love me back. All I'd care about is that I love him," she adds, then jokes that her last sentence would probably encourage more than a few callers.

I asked her what she would do if she found out she only had a few days to live. She said she would eat everything, find a partner to go dancing with, then travel to Venice and die there.

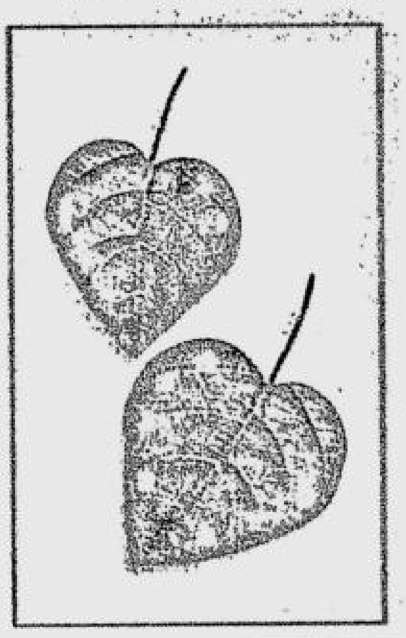
I half expected her to say something more reflective or dramatic, like she would hug her family, tell them she loves them, and try to right all the wrong things she has done. But I wasn't talking to someone who rarely spends a quiet day ensconced in the peaceful presence of the people she loves. I was talking to a dutiful daughter who still goes home to her family in Bulacan and who enjoys staying home, eating, sleeping and shooting the breeze with her family whenever she has no work.

"I believe my character hasn't changed. I never bring my work home. When I go home to Bulacan, I'm just Regine the daughter or Regine the sister. I still wear my Islander *tsinelas*. I still eat with my hands. I'd like to think I've grown but I'm still very much childlike," she says.

She beams when I ask her about her mother, Tessie, someone who is rarely mentioned in the publicity about her, but who, Regine professes, is just as instrumental as her father Gerry is in her success as a performer, as well as in keeping her grounded in reality.

"My mom plays the piano and the guitar. She played a big part in my musical training, although

REGINE/ A28



The laugh of your life is waiting at Greenbelt 1.

Join Jon Santos and Candy Pangilinan at the Comedy Club as they reveal the lighter side of showbiz loveteams. Feb 12, 7 pm. Greenbelt 1 Café Row.

Catch Madonna in the romantic comedy Swept Away. Greenbelt 1 Art Film, 2nd floor starting Feb 12.

Laugh out loud and fall in love with Nia Long and John Corbett in My Big Fat Greek Wedding. Greenbelt 1 Cinemas starting Feb 12.

Check cinema listing for movie schedule.

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TOUR SCHEDULE

Feb 09: (4pm) EVER COMMONWEALTH - *Dingdong Avanzado*
(4pm) ROBINSON'S IMUS - *Jamie Rivera*
(4pm) SM CEBU - *Angela Velez, Smokey Manaloto & Boy2 Quizon*
(4pm) SM CENTERPOINT - *KLASMEYTS*

Feb 14: (2pm) SM MEGAMALL - *"Darating Ang Umaga" Cast*
(2pm) SM NORTH EDSA - *"Sa Dulo Ng Walang Hanggan" Cast*
(2pm) SM FAIRVIEW - *"Bituin" Cast*
(2pm) SM BICUTAN - *"Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay" Cast*
(6pm) SM MEGAMALL - *The Hunks*

Feb 15: (4pm) SM NORTH EDSA - *April Boy*
(4pm) ROBINSON'S IMUS - *"Tabing Ilog" Cast*

Feb 16: (4pm) SM NORTH EDSA - *Dingdong Avanzado*
(4pm) SM SOUTHMALL - *"Berks"*

Feb 22: (4pm) SM MANILA - *April Boy*
(4pm) ROBINSON'S GALLERIA - *Dingdong Avanzado*
(4pm) SM NORTH EDSA - *Jericho Rosales - Kristine Hermosa & "Ngayong Nandito Ka" Cast*

Feb 23: (4pm) SM NORTH EDSA - *"Berks"*
(4pm) STA. LUCIA EAST - *Jericho Rosales - Kristine Hermosa*
(4pm) SM FAIRVIEW - *Carlos Agassi*

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____ City ____ Zip Code

BIRTHDAY ____ mm/dd/yy SPOUSE NAME ____

HOME CONTACT NO. ____ MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME ____

OFFICE/COMPANY NAME ____

BUSINESS ADDRESS ____ No. ____ Street

____ Barangay

____ City ____ Zip Code

BUSINESS TEL NO. ____

PREFERRED BILLING ADDRESS ☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE

CREDIT CARD NAME
☐ BPI ☐ Citibank ☐ Diners Club
☐ Equitable ☐ Unicard ☐ Standard Chartered

CREDIT CARD NO. ____

EXPIRY DATE ____ 3 Digits at the Back of Card ____

☐ INSTALLMENT ☐ ONE-TIME PAYMENT

Installment Term ☐ 3 ☐ 6 ☐ 9 ☐ 12 months

CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS
☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE ☐ OTHERS ____

Handset Model Order ____

Line Application Plan
☐ Ⓖ Text (Plan P500) FREE Text 500 FREE Calls 25 min.
☐ Ⓖ Mix (Plan P800) FREE Text 250 FREE Calls 100 min.
☐ Ⓖ Talk (Plan P1200) FREE Text 250 FREE Calls 200 min.
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☐ Ⓖ Max (Plan P3500) FREE Text 600 FREE Calls 750 min.

SIGNATURE ____

DELIVERY DATE/TIME ____

Accomplish this form and fax it to us together with the application requirements and a photocopy of your credit card showing both sides.

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SundayBIZ
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Fisherman's grandson hooks varied goods to the top

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

HIS father was a son of a simple fisherman from Bohol, but by putting himself through college in Cebu and later law school at the University of the Philippines, he was able to build a better life for himself and his family.

His father's example of succeeding through hard work and grim determination was a guiding light for Genaro V. Lapez, who has earned many titles including president of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

As the eldest of seven children, Lapez tells SundayBiz he was raised to be the example, the trailblazer for his siblings. Thus, he got more than his fair share of advice from his parents.

His father, he says, always stressed the wisdom of making the most of opportunities and that if one was determined enough and willing to put in the required hard work, he would surely succeed.

Lapez took these lessons to heart and these have served him well from the time he got out of school in 1979 with a degree in Management Engineering from the Ateneo de Manila University.

FIRST JOB

He started his career at Procter & Gamble where he was hired as a management trainee earning P1,800 a month, an average salary considering that banks at that time were willing to pay more for the same position.

"I remember presenting my first salary to my parents, and I spent my second salary to complete my office wardrobe. I think I bought four long-sleeved shirts, a pair of pants and a good pair of shoes," Lapez recalls.

Lapez says he was exposed to different parts of P&G's business and in less than a year, he was assigned to the export business after management learned that he knew Chinese, a legacy from his high school days in the Xavier School.

"I was just 23 and already I was assigned to Hong Kong and Singapore. I handled Head and Shoulders and then Camay soap," Lapez says.

He stayed with P&G for four years and he says the very thorough training and early exposure to the heart of the business of the multinational company provided the strong foundation for his stellar career.

1979 college picture

"In P&G, I learned to take care of the basics and the importance of having a strategy. Because in day-to-day business, it is rare to be on a straight path. There are many detours so if you are not conscious of the final destination, you might get lost," Lapez says.

He also appreciated the value of knowing all sides of the business, not just the area where he was assigned.

For example, he was in marketing but he took pains to learn the financial side of the business and manufacturing.

The well-rounded approach to business decisions enabled the young management trainee to make some headway in the Hong Kong and Singapore markets, which were traditionally dominated by rival Unilever group.

His success did not go unnoticed, thus, he was hired away from P&G in 1982 to become marketing director of the pharmaceutical line of Revlon that sold the popular Oxy pimple care cream.

His area of responsibility included Revlon healthcare in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

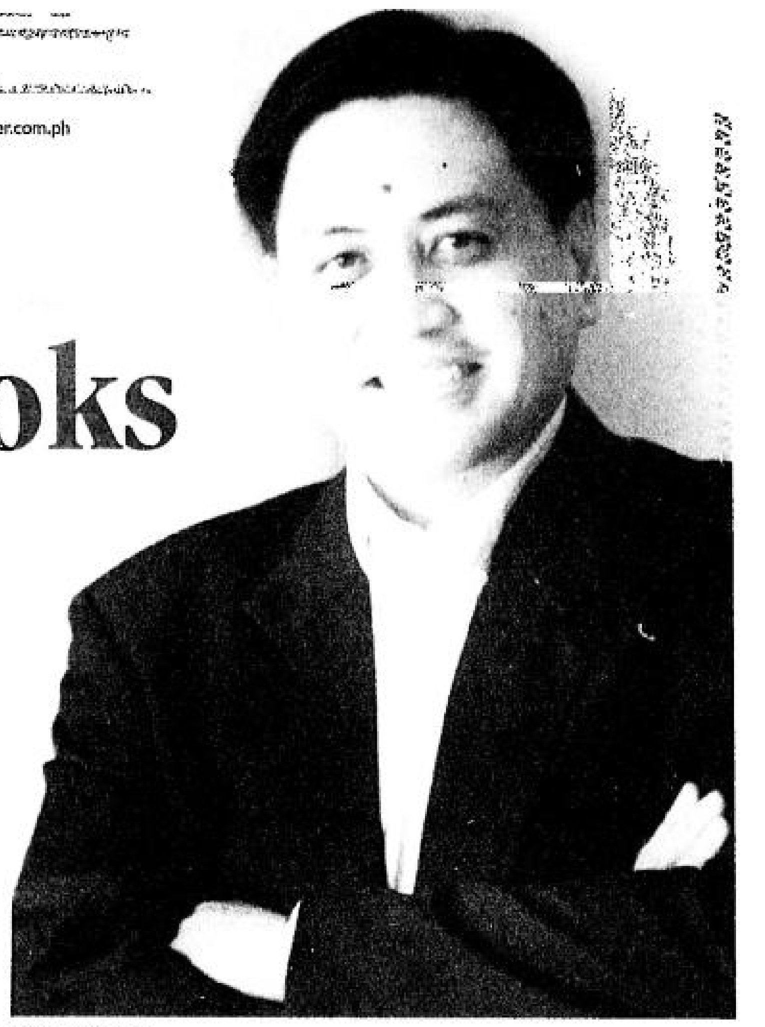
In the middle of 1987, he left Singapore for Hong Kong to join a former boss who moved to the publishing world through Time Life.

Lapez was asked to join him to handle the non-magazine side of the business which included books, video and music compilations.

"It was exciting to be based in another country. I was just turning 30 then so I thought that if things did not work out I was still young enough to start again," he explains.

By this time he was married to his longtime girlfriend Girlie and had two daughters. A son came in 1988.

Lapez ended up staying in the company for 10 years, during which he moved back to Singapore and became sales and marketing head of the non-magazine business in 13 countries in Asia including India, Pakistan and Indonesia.



LAPEZ today

In 1996, Time Life merged with the Turner group and the resulting reorganization would have meant that Lapez move back to Hong Kong.

He hesitated about the move because he thought Singapore was a better place to raise his three children, so he took the offer of Nabisco in Singapore to handle operations in Southeast Asia. Nabisco manufactured popular consumer products such as Oreo cookies, Ritz crackers and Fig Newton.

Despite the many years abroad working for multinationals, Lapez retained close ties with the Philippines.

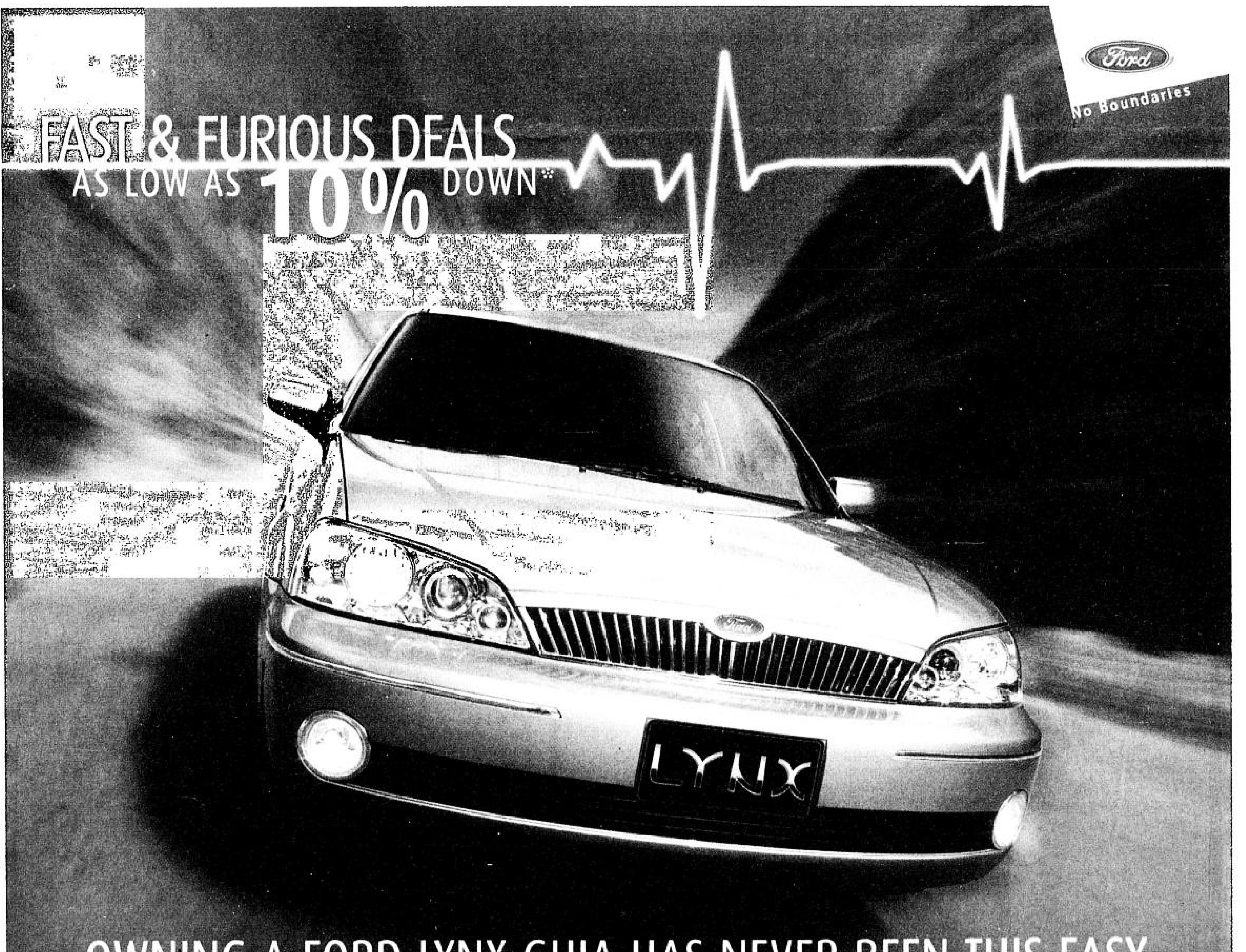
He and his family went home to Manila and Bohol practically every year and he remained actively involved with Filipino organizations.

It was partly because of these involvements that he was approached by former San Miguel Corp. president Francisco C. Eizmendi for a possible job in the Philippines. San Miguel was looking for somebody with a good marketing background and Lapez's experiences in different countries was a bonus.

"I kept his offer at the back of my mind and then we had a series of meetings until I accepted the position in the fourth quarter of 1999," Lapez says.

He says the timing of the offer was just right because he was al-

FISHERMAN'S/ B2



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RP offers exotic fresh food, lipstick and furniture to China

IF BUREAUCRATS in government are to be followed, the Philippines will conquer the 1.2 billion Chinese market with exotic fresh food like prawns, cashew nuts and carabao mango, beauty care goods from lipsticks and eyebrow pencils to deodorants plus furniture and other home furnishings.

Don't laugh now. The offer is true. These products stand out in a list of selected Philippine goods prepared by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as the country's contribution to a basket of goods from members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) that can enter China with little or no taxes beginning July this year.

A late bird in the feast on the big Chinese trade worm, the Philippines will be taking a peck at what the giant economic dragon has offered as goodwill gesture it called Early Harvest Package to get Asean leaders to sign the deal in forming the Asean plus China Free Trade Area.

Asean, of which the Philippines is one of the original members, threw caution to the wind, swallowed the free "Early Harvest" bait of getting a step or two inside the gargantuan, but until today, a thickly walled, Chinese market.

The tradeoff will come at a later date when Asean will also throw its doors wide open to definitely cheaper, and may be better, goods from China.

The agriculture department, which is supposed to be the expert in farm crops and fishery harvests produced here in abundance and in demand abroad, made a short list of 17 products that suggested will enjoy low tariff in China from desiccated coconut to cigarettes and raw tobacco.

In that list, only pineapple and banana are produced in big enough quantities to reach more than a couple of cities in China. The rest like cashew nuts, fresh mango juice and young coconuts will just be exotic offerings in a few five-star hotels in Shanghai and Beijing.

To its credit, the DTI came up with a bit longer list of 29 specific farm and fishery products by adding some more rare food like durian, powdered ube and vegetable juice and, of all things, cabbage and lettuce which are now smuggled into the country.

Most of the crops are grown in very limited quantities, whose volume cannot be increased fast enough to meet the demands of a huge mass market even if the sample batches sell like hot cakes when first offered.

The list of "industrial" products, although a bit longer than the farm list, magnify the sad state of the country's industrialization. The list of goods is dominated by two groups—a range of beauty care products from lipsticks to under-arm deodorants and an impressive line of office and home furniture and furnishings.

The bureaucrats seem to have adopted the strategy that to get a distinct niche in the complex Chinese market, hit them in the stomach with fancy food, on the face by making their women look prettier, and in their homes and offices by making these appear cozier. Original. *Abe P. Belena, Philexport News and Features.*

'Marketing is the answer'–Joecon

BUSINESSMAN and civic leader Jose "Joecon" Concepcion warned against the Philippine markets disappearing and admonished that the Filipino should maximize its competitive edge if progress is to be achieved.

"We should act not retreat. We could bank on the Filipino ingenuity, our creativity that is recognized all over the world, and the fact that we relate well with the West because of common ties and culture. Marketing is the answer," declared Concepcion in his keynote speech at the recent induction of the new officers of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) held at the Hotel Intercon in Makati.

To attain a desirable gross domestic product (GDP) rate, Concepcion also stressed that all the country's regions must work on their own share. At present, 31 percent of the total GDP rate is contributed by Metro Manila while 15 percent came from Southern Tagalog.

"It's time for us to review. What is in these two regions that brought about these contributions?" Concepcion stated.

These figures, Concepcion added, are realities that should challenge associations like PMA which are always on the lookout for new concepts and strategies to improve business and the way it is conducted in the Philippines.

Guided by the theme "New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies," the PMA could not agree more as the new set of officers and members commit themselves to the task of nation-building by presenting the realities of today and the demands of tomorrow.

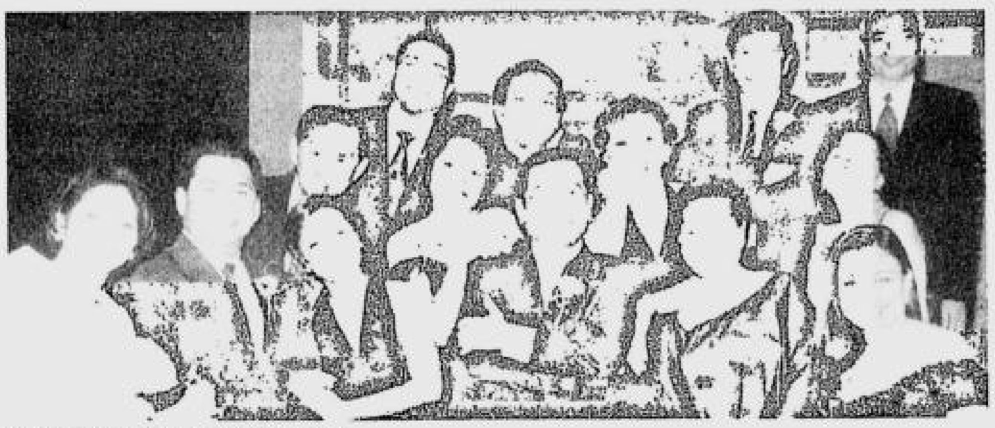
Newly installed PMA prexy Leonardo "Nards" Garcia Jr., director of the De La Salle University College of Business and Economics graduate studies, said that PMA's theme for 2003 is reflective of the Filipino's very own character.

"While we say that we want to achieve more, the truth is we still achieve less—as compared to our Asian neighbors. Truly, there is still much to be desired in the eyes of the public," states Garcia.

Concepcion is banking on the pivotal role of PMA in "reinventing," "re-launching" and "redefining" the essence of marketing in today's competitive world.

"You can even provide marketing intelligence for prospective investors," Concepcion suggested, adding that the PMA this year is faced with harnessing the marketing discipline for renewal, development and progress.

JOSE Concepcion at the PMA 49th induction ceremonies. From left are Felix Lao, VP-chapters; Juanita Punsal, internal auditor/director, National Marketing Month; Jose Maria Policarpio, PR and corporate communications and Herminio del Rosario, meetings and attendance.


2002 PMA officers and directors

With a unified sentiment of developing new marketing tenets based on current needs to keep up with neoteric trends and to keep everything in balance, the PMA vows of a more promising year ahead.

"While technological advancements have made gods out of robots, man's intuition remains to be a strong scientific basis for meeting sales and profit objectives. New markets, new rules, new strategies will call for a new look. We have a game plan. We are committed. We are strong," declared Garcia.

Also inducted that night were: Ma. Veronica Hizon of The Andresons Group Inc., executive vice president; Cergen Go of El Real Manpower, VP for membership and fellowship; Aniceto Fontanilla of The Asia Pacific Center for Research, VP for education and research; Felix Lao Jr. of United Laboratories, VP for chapters; Joselito B. Ortega of BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, VP for youth and academe; Sonia E. de Guzman of Zetto Construction Corp., treasurer; Elizabeth B. Flores of OTT Louie, board secretary.

Directors are Juanita Punsal of AZ Communications, Ma. Aileen Abiva-Sazon of Felta Multi-Media Center, Herminio del Rosario of Electroworld, Bienvenido Policarpio of Prudential Life Plan Group, Ma. Elena S. Gunda of TRI MAR Corp., Jose Maria T. Policarpio of Diwa Learning Systems Inc., and immediate past president Marivic Añonuevo of Ayala Land Inc.

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CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Ms. Flordeliza A. Velez
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ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Fisherman's grandson . . .

From page B1

ready thinking about bringing his family home where they truly belong.

"It must have been my Jesuit angst to give back some of my blessings. I did have opportunities to remain overseas but I thought that I was in my early 40s, if I stayed longer, it may be too difficult for me to integrate myself in the Philippines," Lapez says.

LAPEZ weds in 1981

And if there was one company where Lapez would want to work for in the Philippines, it was San Miguel.

At first he thought he would get an operating function, but what he got was a new position as corporate marketing officer of the entire group.

The job meant consolidating the marketing efforts of the different brand groups such as San Miguel beer, Magnolia and Pure Foods under one strategy.

"There was a need to do it at that time because San Miguel had to face up to increased competition, which it did not have to before because it was largely a monopoly. Consumers today are also more demanding," he explains.

Lapez put all his creative energies behind the new job, but after laying down the standards he was asked to take on the new job as president of CCBPI in July 2001 following San Miguel's repurchase of the company.

San Miguel earlier sold CCBPI to Coca-Cola Amatil of Australia, but bought it back in 2001 for lower price making a profit.

"My mandate now is to extract more efficiencies and to leverage our scale because we are the biggest in the market. We are also positioning the Cosmos group so that sales would grow alongside Coke," he says.

Lapez says he learned from his exposure to big companies here and abroad that excellent communication skills go a long way in pushing a person up the corporate ladder.

"In my experience, the individual who could communicate the best will get noticed, especially in a multinational company," he says.

Lapez also says that it pays to be inquisitive, to know about other parts of the operations to make better business decisions. He says he developed this discipline from P&G where his decisions had a direct impact on the company's net profit.

The early exposure, Lapez says, gave him the confidence to boldly try new ideas to improve his division's or his company's net income.

LAPEZ with firstborn

LAPEZ family

WITH Ateneo pals in 1990

In the pharmaceutical company, for instance, he spearheaded the decision to go direct to the consumers through product sampling and sales through supermarkets. This was quite a departure from the previous system where Oxy pimple medication was sold through drugstores.

For Time-Life, he gambled on selling children's books after research showed that Asians spent a lot of money on their children. By the time that he left, the children's books accounted for 70 to 75 percent of the sales.

And finally for San Miguel, he launched the San Mig light low calorie beer which has become the fastest-growing new product in the company's history.

Lapez is expected to launch similar market moving products with Coca-Cola, which he says requires faster thinking on one's feet. He says technological developments and more empowered consumers require executives like him to make faster decisions even if the data is not yet complete.

"I think the old cliche of jack of all trades and master of none no longer applies. These days you should be a master of all," he says.

EXPATS all. From left, Simon Paterno-DBP, Hans Sicat-Solomon Smith Barney, Jojo Quintos-IBM and Lapez

Text messaging invades raffles

By Abigail L. Ho

FILIPINOS really have a strong attachment to games of chance, proven by the long queues before Lotto ticket counters and raffle ticket redemption booths in almost every establishment imaginable. This may also explain the number of drop boxes located in supermarkets and even at the domestic airport.

Another very Filipino trait is the love for "texting." The country's cellphone-wielding population sends out an astonishing 150 million messages a day-a mixture of actual messages, forwarded messages, data requests (like ring tone or operator logo downloads) and text game entries.

Taking these two Pinoy characteristics into consideration, a new company has come into existence. And it aims to forever change the way Filipinos look at their raffle tickets and cellular phones.

Buy N Text Corp. is launching what it claims to be "the country's first large-scale text-based raffle promo" through a partnership with cellular giant Smart Communications Inc.

Starting Feb. 10, three raffles will be held every week during Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays where participants get a chance to win P1 million on each draw. Promo period ends on May 1.

Buy N Text chief operating officer Arthur Policarpio says more raffle participants will start seeing text-based raffles as more convenient alternatives to the traditional paper-based ones.

"We see the raffle industry migrating towards SMS (short messaging service). We expect consumer response to be higher with our text-based raffle promo compared with the traditional raffle," he says.

He adds that text-based raffles like the one Buy N Text will offer can be managed more efficiently as they will not require cumbersome raffle tickets and drop boxes without sacrificing the promotional purpose of conducting raffle promos.

As with the traditional raffles, consumers can join the Buy N Text promo only after buying products of participating companies.

These companies initially include Heinz-UFC Corp., Kimberly-Clark Phil. Inc., Procter & Gamble Phil., Purefoods-Hormel Corp., CPR Marketing and Promotions Inc., Golden Oats Corp., and Datu Puti producer Southeast Asia Foods, Inc. Even beauty salon chain David's Salon is participating in the promo. Bayer Phil. is expected to also join Buy N Text's company line-up by next month.

But unlike conventional raffles, those who want to participate in the promo do not need to fill out entry forms or raffle tickets or even mail or place in designated dropboxes properly filled out product labels or wrappers.

They merely have to look for the Buy N Text logo and code, which consists of a series of letters and numbers, on the wrapper or label of participating products. They then have to send this code via a text message to "399."

Subscribers of Smart and sister firm Pilipino Telephone Corp.'s Talk 'N Text have to first register by keying in Reg, the Buy N Text code of a participating product, participant's name, gender, complete address and birthday for them to join the raffle.

After sending these registration details also to 399, they can already send their Buy N Text codes which automatically qualifies them for the thrice-a-week draws. Each text message costs P2.50.

"With wireless technologies, electronic raffle promos are now more efficient than the traditional raffle promos," says Smart's product development head Edgardo Bautista.

The end-benefits

Policarpio points out that, with the Buy N Text raffle, consumers do not need to spend for postage stamps for them to mail their en-

TEXT/ B8

Veggie noodles generate healthy profit for couple

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—If parents have a hard time making their children eat green and leafy vegetables, they can now try serving delicious pancit canton noodles enriched with squash and saluyot.

The Cleafar Agribusiness in Iloilo has manufactured noodles packed with Vitamin A from pureed squash and saluyot leaves, which are added into the mixture of wheat and eggs.

Owners Rafael and Caridad Pama named their products Kalabasa Mentecato and Saluyot Mentecato. Mentecato is the Spanish word for noodles.

The couple hopes to target school children, and those six-year-old and below who are deficient in vitamin A. The parents need not worry because the noodles appear and taste like ordinary supermarket canton noodles.

The Cleafar Agribusiness started as a poultry and swine farm in Zarraga town, 15 kilometers north of here, in 1999.

The Pama couple came up with the idea of going into noodle making because they were saddled with many cracked eggs that they were unable to sell.

They then went to the Department of Science and Technology-Western Visayas (DOST-6) office here to seek technical assistance like training, equipment evaluation, quality control and packaging.

The available technology at the DOST during that time was incorporating squash and saluyot into the noodles. The Pama couple went ahead with the training.

After a series of product tests, Kalabasa Mentecato and Saluyot Mentecato were finally launched in April last year.

These were first marketed at trade fairs in Iloilo. But this year, the company is negotiating for shelf space in big supermarkets in Iloilo. It has started developing snack packs of noodles for school kids.

Cleafar currently produces 450 packs of squash and saluyot noodles, which is still way below its production capacity of 1,500. A 100-gram pack sells at P12.50 in retail and P10.50 in wholesale.

The Pama couple said they have only utilized 10 percent of their cracked eggs, thus they wanted to expand their noodle business.

Ready to Eat
KALABAZA MENTECATO
(Canton Style Squash Noodles)
Good Source of VITAMIN A

A PACK of squash noodles.
MA. DIOSA LABISTE, PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

They get their supply of squash and saluyot from their neighbors' plots and backyard in Zarraga. But they said they want to link up with farmer groups that might be willing to grow the vegetables on larger scale.

Squash (called kalabasa here) and saluyot (locally known as tagabang or tugabang), which are rich sources of vitamin A, are abundant in Western Visayas.

Nona Tad-y, the National Nutrition Council (NNC) nutrition program coordinator in Western Visayas, said adding the squash and saluyot into the canton noodles is a trick to make the kids eat vegetables without even knowing it.

Based on the NNC data, Western Visayas has one of the highest incidence of vitamin A deficiency, exceeding the cut-off point of 15 percent set by the World Health Organization.

The NNC said the region has 40.9 percent prevalence in vitamin A deficiency for children ages six months to five years old. The national average is slightly lower at 38 percent.

Provinces in the region that rank high in vitamin A deficiency are Negros Occidental, Iloilo and Antique.

Vitamin A deficiency impairs vision, causes blindness and makes one susceptible to a host of diseases like measles or diarrhea.

Joyce Tobias of the DOST, who did the nutritional analysis of the noodles, said a single serving of 50 grams of the noodles supplies one-third of the RDA (recommended daily allowance) for vitamin A.

To make sure that vitamin A is not lost during cooking, Tobias said that Cleafar adds more vegetable puree to the noodle recipe.

Since the noodles are deep fried, they make absorption of fat-soluble vitamin A in the body easier. Frying also prolongs the shelf life to four months.

Tobias stressed that Cleafar's food fortification and enrichment process is natural, with no additives. She said the DOST randomly test the packs of noodles for vitamin A.

Zinnia Teruel, DOST director for Western Visayas, said the Cleafar has proven the viability of a technology developed by the government for small and medium enterprises.

The company is now helping 50 adjacent households that grow squash and saluyot.

Among those who were convinced of the products' nutritional value are the women who sell the squash and saluyot noodles in Zarraga and Iloilo City.

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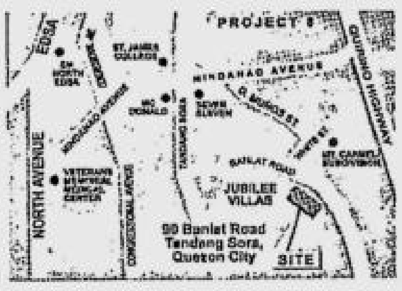

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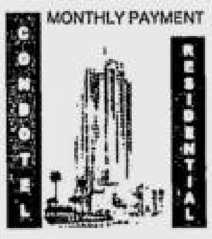

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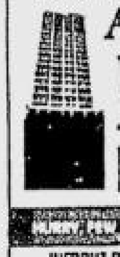

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3. Toyota Hilux 2.8 D Pick-up, Model 2000	Bataan	569,400.00

Additional information and request for inspection may be secured at the above address from **February 3-21, 2003** c/o Mr. R. C. Ocampo in Makati with tel. no. 810-6418; and in Bataan c/o Mr. R. C. Roque with tel. no. (047) 244-5886. Interested parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS TWO HUNDRED (P200.00) from the PPDC-Disposal Committee (Makati) or Site Administration Department (Bataan).

Deadline for submission of sealed bids is on **February 28, 2003, 1:30 PM** at the PNOC-PDC, 11/F, Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Public opening of bids shall immediately be conducted after the 1:30 PM deadline.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Deposit in the form of Cash or Manager's/ Cashier's Check equivalent to at least 10% of each bid price, acquired from any PPDC accredited banks.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Signed this 29th day of January, 2003 in Makati City.

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI – Feb. 1 & 9, 2003)

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL B. OFRASIO has been settled by his heirs per Doc#12 Page #04 Bk#LXIII series of 2003 before Notray Public ATTY. DONARDO PAGLINAWAN PTR#7631740 Makati
(PDI-Feb 9, 16, 23, 2003)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CIRIACO A. URSAIS HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED PURSUANT TO AN EXTRAJUDICIAL DEED OF SETTLEMENT DULY NOTARIZED BEFORE ATTY. MAILA TAGAYTAY REYES AS PER DOC. 545; PAGE NO. 109; BOOK II; SERIES 2003; NOTARY PUBLIC OF MANILA
PDI-February 9, 16 & 23, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TIBURCIO A. MANLANGIT III wsa extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc # 453; Page # 91; Book # CVII Series of 2003 by Notary Public Atty Danilo O. Leyble of Antipolo City.
PDI - Feb. 9, 16 & 23, 2003

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The Board of Directors, Management & Staff of

LI SENG GIAP & SONS INC.
and
LI SENG GIAP & CO. INC.

announce with deep sorrow the
passing of our beloved
Vice-Chairman and Vice President-Treasurer

PETER T. LEE

He peacefully joined his Creator
on the 5th of February 2003 at the age of 70

A loving husband to ***SOPHIE***
A beloved father to ***Butch, Byron, Clifton, Deanne*** *and* ***Jing,***
Daughters-in-law ***Vicky, Binky & Sharlene,***
Sons-in-law ***Felix*** *and* ***Rene***

A caring ***Angkong***
Xavier, Adrienne, Janna, Adam, Heinze,
Elizabeth, Laura, Deron *and* ***Drake***

We, his family and all his other relatives and friends, request those whose lives have been touched by our beloved ***Peter*** *to pray for the repose of his soul as he is born into Eternal Life.*

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 11th of February 2003.
Cremation will immediately follow at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever!"
Psalm 23:6

It has been a year since our beloved and deeply missed Horace passed away. He left with us, his family, a legacy of integrity, honesty and forthrightness. The values and principles he instilled in us will remain the rudder that will steer us through our lifetime journey. Horace, we love you very, very much and we are proud to be your family.

In loving memory of

Atty. Horacio T. Lava, Jr.

Novena Masses are being offered at the following churches starting Feb. 1 to 9, 2003:

Church of the Resurrection, *BF Homes, Parañaque City*	6:30 PM
Presentation of the Lord Jesus Parish, *BF Homes, Parañaque City*	7:15 PM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	12:15 Noon
Christ the King Church, *Green Meadows, Quezon City*	6:00 PM

His dearest wife **Lillian**; children **Horacio III** and **Ana, Marielou, Loreto** and **Graham, Maritess** and **Rene, Bettina** and **Philip, Florian** and **Ernesto, Marie Jean** and **Edgardo**; grandchildren and foster children, his sister, brothers, brother-in-law and sisters-in-law **Remedios** and **Victor, Conrado** and **Teresita, Tomas** and **Melinda**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request our pious readers to continue to pray for his eternal peace and happiness in heaven.

"For My yoke is easy and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:30

Dr. Clodualdo J. Ventura, MD

Peacefully joined his Creator
on January 31, 2003.

His remains lie in state at Santa Clara, California, USA. His ashes will be at Mary Mother of Good Counsel Parish, Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City.

Interment of ashes will be announced later.

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrow...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses and funeral rites...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude.
From the family of the late

RENATO GUECO MERCADO, SR.

Remedios S. Cordeta, PhD.

of Bo. Obrero, Tondo, Manila and Los Angeles, California

Peacefully joined her Creator
on February 1, 2003 at the age of 82.

Her late husband **Eugenio** (†); loving children **Manny** and **Judith, Mely** and **Nick, Remy, Jun** and **Lucy, Cherry**; grandchildren, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at Popular Memorial Chapels, 2141 Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila (near Batangas St., Blumentritt) from February 8 to February 10, 2003. Her remains will be transferred to 3252 R. Almario, Bo. Obrero, Tondo, Manila (near Boyaa Basketball Court) on February 11 to 13, 2003.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 13, 2003 at the La Loma Cemetery after the 12:00 noon Mass.

DIAZ MURILLO DALUPAN AND COMPANY

the Partners, Officers and Staffmembers
wish to convey its condolence
to the family on the demise of our Partner

NORMA YU BUSTAMANTE

Died in the Grace of the Lord on February 4, 2003.

Her bereaved and loving husband Pablo; children Chris and Marloue; Malou; Ma-an; Noel; brother Rene; in-laws; relatives and friends are assured of our prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body now lies in state at #23 St. Bernadette Street, Provident Village, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 12, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

Special Message of Thanks

from the Family of

"Ely"

ELOISA MARIANO ABRINA

(17 May 1932 – 30 January 2003)

to the ARELLANITES Class '50 for honoring Mommy's memory through a touching necrological service and Eucharistic celebration at the family residence last 6 February 2003.

Remember her with fondness and keep her in your prayers always.

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Doña Leoncia Cuyegkeng Vda. de Lim

September 12, 1906 – January 25, 2003

Our heartfelt thanks

for your prayers and expressed sympathies at the loss of our dearest **LUCY**.

It is of great consolation to know so many people loved her. Though we miss her dearly, she is now happily reunited with our Lord and our dearly departed ones in heaven.

We thank you so very much.

Eddie (†) and **Luisa**, **Lulu** and **Johnny**, **Tony** (†),
Rene and **Nanette**, **Carmen**, **Eric** and **Butch**,
Charrie, **Flory** and **Dennis**

Moony, **Elo** and **Butch**, **Enrique** (†) and **Annette**,
Bing and **Pipo**, **Emmanuel** and **Leila**, **Ernesto** and **Tet**,
Gee and **Pieter**, **Wendy** and **Oskie**, **Jackie** and **Nolet**, **Pinky** and **Nilo**
Ginny and **Jaime**, **Gino**, **Winnie**, **Rhea**, **Raymond**, **Richard**
BR and **Michelle**
Bambam

and her loving
great grandchildren.

"I am home in Heaven, dear ones; Oh so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty in this everlasting light."

RICHARD LIU TAI FUNG

Group Vice Chairman

Kuok Holdings Limited
Kuok (Singapore) Ltd.
Kuok Brothers Sdn. Bhd

Husband to Kuok Siew Choon, father to Christopher, Julian, Kevin, Joanne & father-in-law to Liane.
He passed away on the 1st of February, 2003 at age 62.
He was very much loved and respected by his friends and colleagues and he will be greatly missed.
We share his family's sorrow and express our deepest condolences and support to them in this time of grief.
All donations received will benefit the Hong Kong Vocational Centre.

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

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SAN MIGUEL BREWERY HONG KONG, LTD.

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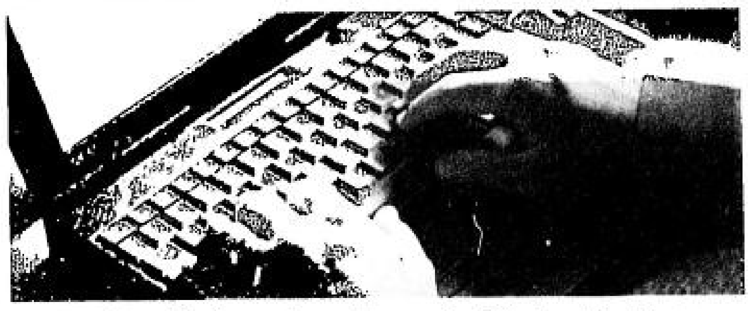
PAL will soon offer in-seat power ports and adjustable reading lamps.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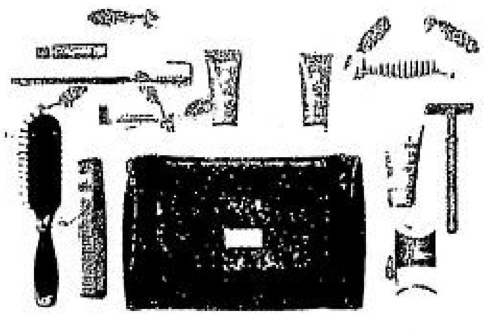
STANDARD grooming kit for first and business class passengers

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Text messaging . . .

From page B3

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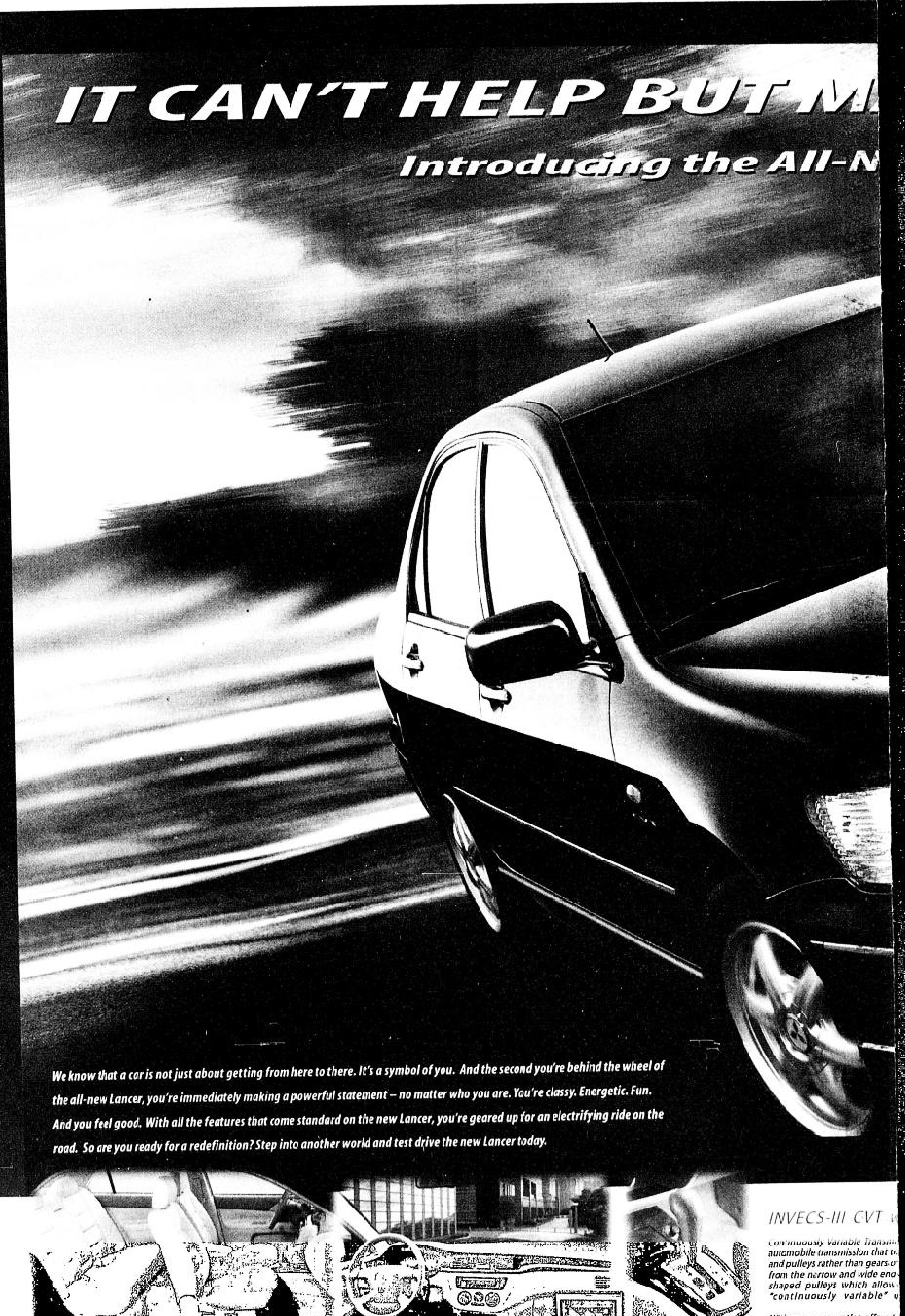

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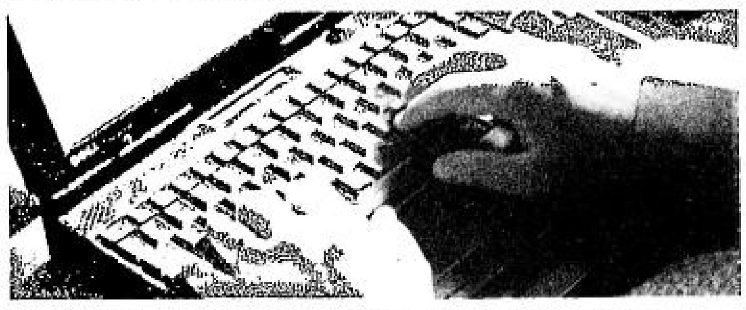

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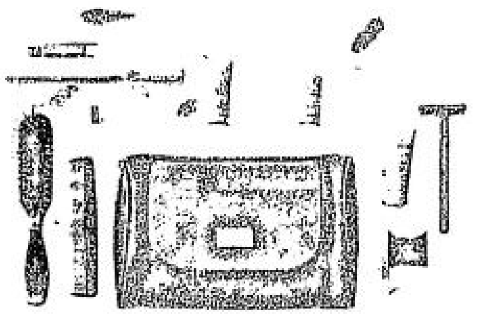

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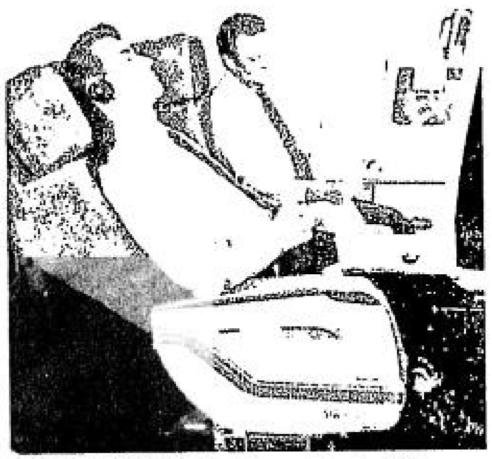

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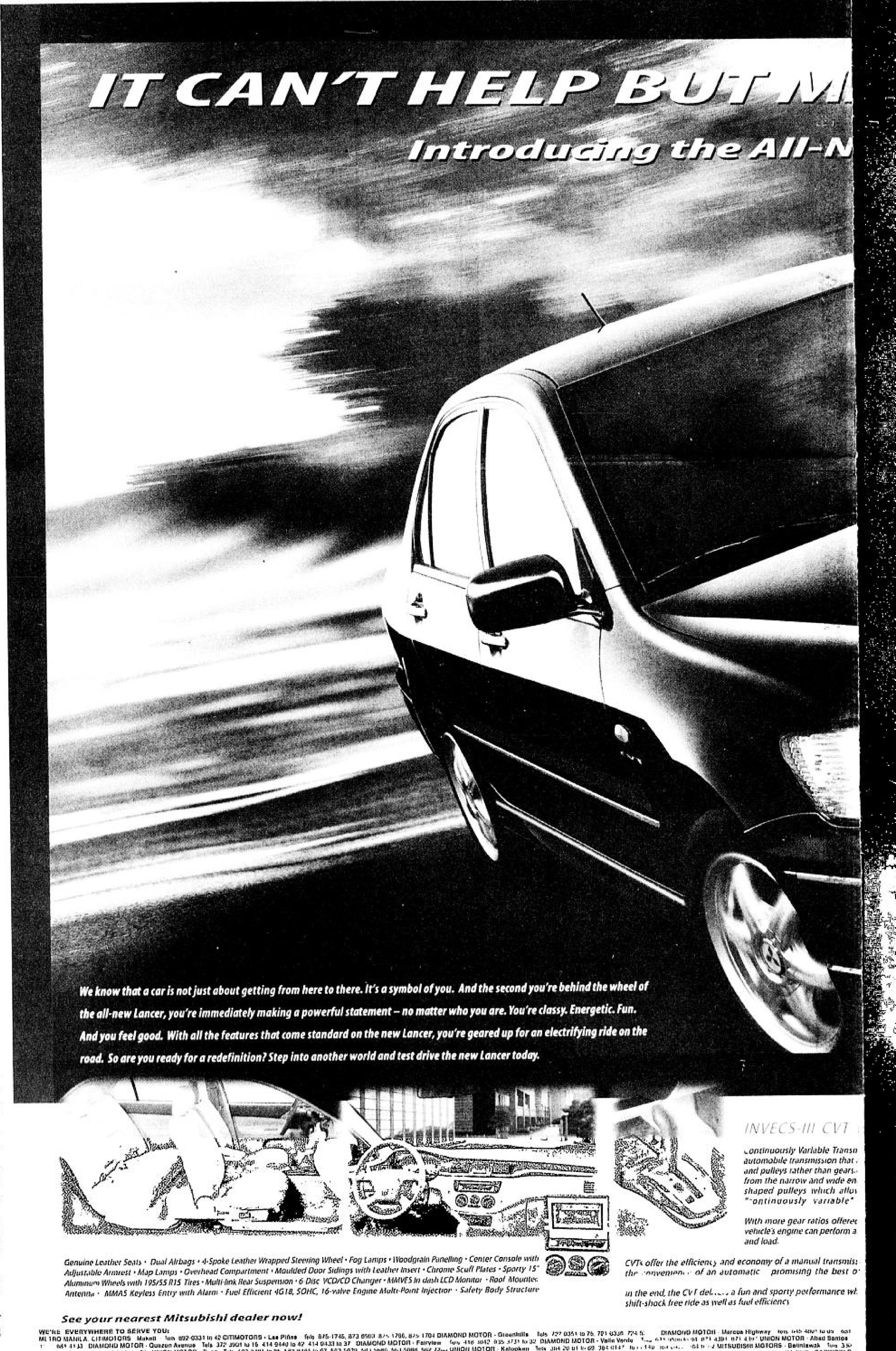

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Bank launches enhanced BIR e-payment service

BIR deputy commissioner Lilia Guillermo, head of the Information Systems Group and Unionbank chair and CEO Justo A. Ortiz.

UNIONBANK EVP and corporate banking center head Guia Lim; Mercury Drug chief accountant Rolly Manalac; United Laboratories AVP Romy Robles; Unilab cashiering manager Rolly dela Cruz; Unilab supervisor Linda Aguilon; Unilab director and head of tax compliance Rene Zuniga; Unionbank relationship manager Alice Pastoral

UNIONBANK of the Philippines recently launched its enhanced corporate electronic payment or e-payment facility for the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS) during a ceremony attended by leading corporate tax payers held at the Rockwell Club.

The launch of the facility is in conjunction with the new BIR Revenue Regulations No. 26-2002. The facility will now allow corporations to advance e-file tax return forms without necessarily e-paying on the same date. Hermie Pugeda, executive vice president and head of corporate product banking center of Unionbank said, "What this means is that companies will be able to follow their advance e-file schedule based on industry grouping but at the same time, give them freedom to e-pay on or before the actual tax due date, so they can still maximize funds."

Bank chair and CEO Justo Ortiz in his message during the launch said, "This is to show our appreciation of the progress achieved in e-gobyemo, specifically the BIR EFPS. Our role with respect to e-gobyerno, in particular, is to help create an enabling environment that's good for government and business. We are promoting e-gobyerno as part of our corporate social responsibility."

Speaking on behalf of the BIR was Deputy Commissioner Lilia Guillermo who gave recognition to the special assistance Unionbank has extended in helping BIR further improve delivery of the EFPS. She also appealed to the large taxpayers present during the event to promote for accurate, fair and timely remittance of tax obligations to government.

The e-payment was welcomed by corporate customers which have also been longtime users of the bank's various electronic and web-based cash management collection and disbursement products.

Aside from corporate tax payers, also present from the BIR were assistant commissioner Lirio Cabsaba, EFPS project manager Carolyn Ann Reyes, EFPS project controller Victoria de Leon, and large tax payers document processing division chief Grace Javier. Unionbank officials included EVP and Head of corporate banking center Guia Lim, EVP and head of corporate product banking center Hermie Pugeda, and EVP and head of channel Management Teddy Panganiban.

UNION BANK corporate product sales head Ana Sison; and relationship manager Chett Bernad.

This engineer . . .

From page B14

Otherwise, the whole day is spent reading books and reviewing lessons.

Amado Jr. has a simple arrangement for his student-workers: for those who can't afford board and lodging, they can live with the Malhabours, with free food and lessons in exchange for the students' "work" in the shops. Those who choose to "live out" can come daily for apprentice work and lessons—all for free.

"What drives me to do all these is the strong desire to help others," said Amado Jr., who is now pushing 62.

Rewards

It's not all roses working and studying for Amado Jr. because he can be meticulous and strict with his requirements and the skills that you have to learn, said one of his "students."

Added to this is the common complaint of apprentices that the work of an electrician and plumber is "not much fun," which Amado Jr. himself acknowledges because sometimes, his students have to put in 16 hours of work and study in a day.

Those who have withstood the rigors of studying and working with Amado Jr. have the advantage of going abroad and earning about $2,000 a month (approximately P104,000) as an electrician.

The Malhabours said a plumber in Saudi Arabia could earn $450 a month while a welder working in ships can earn about $1,000 at the least.

All in the family

Electrical and plumbing work is all in the family for the Malhabours. Even the wives of his sons know how to do "rewinding" and basic electrical and plumbing work.

"We'll keep on helping others as long as we are able," said Amado Jr. who says he never worries about the possible decline in the quality of services his shops give.

After all, he and his sons are able to do the work if and when there are no apprentices and workers around. But he believes that is not likely to happen as long as there are people who need help.

Four ladies . . .

From page B14

finished products are functional."

Lydia says when they teach they do not hide their techniques, they share everything.

"We teach people to teach others," she adds.

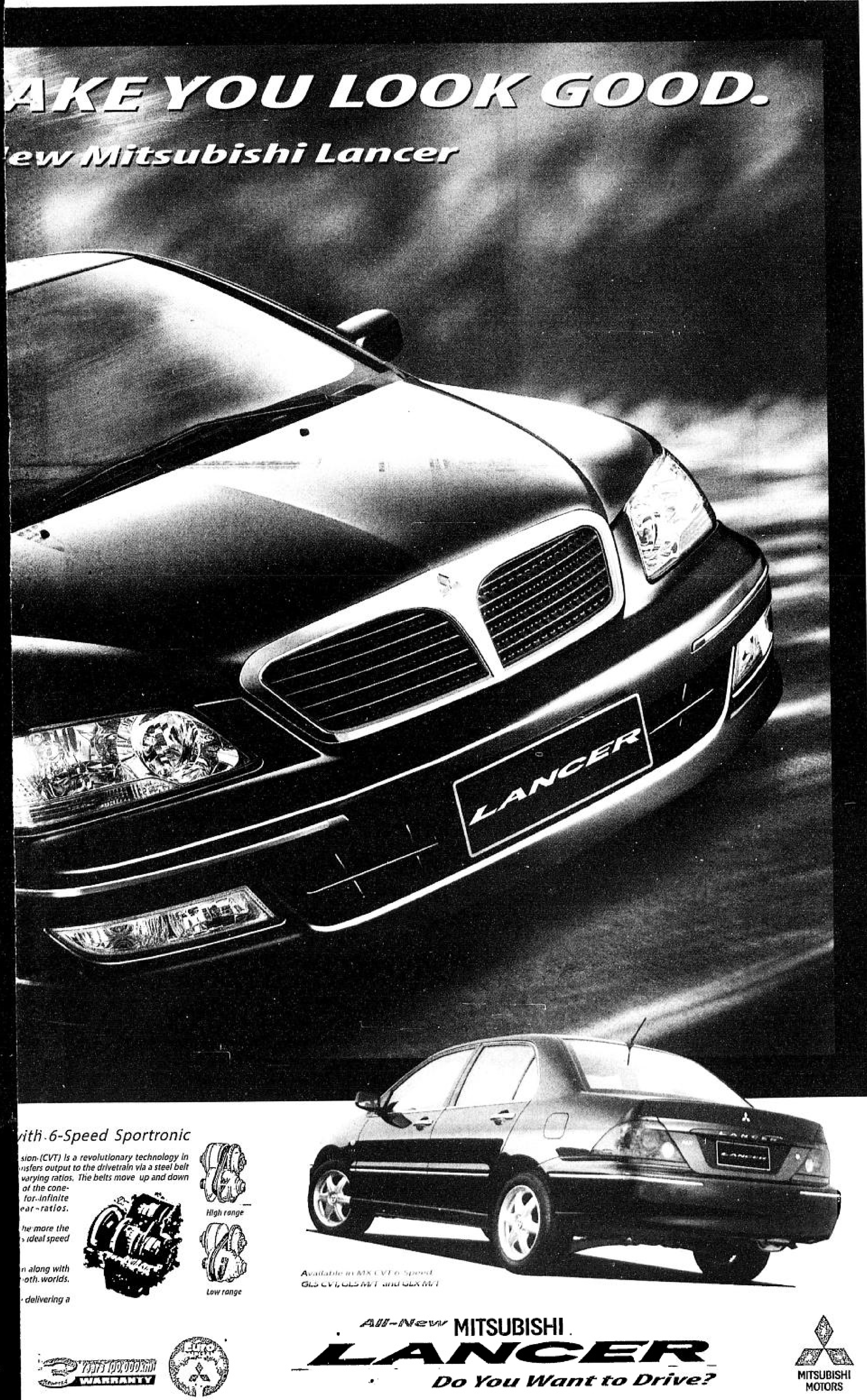
Some of their students have gone on and opened their own pottery schools. Others have gone into business.

Former beauty queen Michelle van Eimeren-Alcasid has set up her own equipment at home and is producing beautiful crafts.

The owner of Amazing Space was also a student of theirs.

Lanelle points out that the most natural students are the kids because of their natural instincts.

While the four all teach at the Exchange, each has her own classes and craft venture outside of their partnership.



IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Multi-National Company with local branches is looking for individuals, should not be more than 38 yrs. old Male/Female Graduate of any course with or without experience. Qualified Candidates to be assigned in any position availble in the Company.

Interested Parties may apply in person in business attire with resumé at:

8th FLR. GALLERIA CORPORATE CENTER
ORTIGAS PASIG CITY (Beside Robinson Galleria Infront of POEA) CLIP THIS AD/Look for Yan-Yan

---

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

JAPANESE INTERPRETER

Send Resumé to:

MK 113
G/F ATRIUM BUILDING
MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
Fax to 807-2674

Survey Controller (CAD Operator)

2 yrs of college/technical school in surveying. Profession Land Surveyor License. 8 years surveying experience with field operations.

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Responsible for complex technical survey, engineering projects and processing of raw Survey data into final survey drawings
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INVITATION TO BID

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1990 L-300 CHASSIS CAB TDZ-653
1998 M. BENZ MUSSO WBV-781
1997 CANTER ALUM VAN UPD-797
2000 STAREX WNF-255
2000 VITARA WLC-579
2000 ISUZU HI-LANDER WPP-423

For particulars, call 812-4631

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 928-2303, 435-3366, 920-5521 loc. 3616

INVITATION TO BID

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested bidders to participate in the E-Bidding for the supply and delivery of ***Brass Ball/Straight Valve*** as shown below:

As per MWSI Technical Specifications and Terms and Conditions

No.	Qty.	Item/Description
1	27,900 pcs.	**Brass Ball/Straight Valve, 15mm valve size with provisions of locking, 20 mm inlet thread size x 20mm swivel nut outlet thread.**

Interested suppliers are required to submit the following as part of the pre-qualification/evaluation to the MWSI-Purchasing Department on or before February 21, 2003, 3:00 p.m.

1. At least three (3) samples (for testing)
2. Shop Drawing and brochures
3. Test Report of the following:
   a) Materials Analysis (Physical and Chemical Test)
   b) Hydro Test Report

A pre-Bid Conference will be held on **February 14, 2003, 10:00 a.m.** at the Conference Room of Corporate Logistics, Basement, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

The complete bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, Engineering Building upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00) in the form of cash or Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

E-Bid Schedule will be on March 05, 2003 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m.

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ
SAVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI–Feb. 8 & 9, 2003)

LGU URBAN WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT (LGU-UWSP)

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT OF WATER UTILITY SYSTEMS

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) on behalf of the participating Local Government Units (LGU's) and their respective Pre-qualification, Bid and Awards Committee (PBAC) would like to invite interested Local and Foreign Firms to apply for pre-qualification and eventually, to submit a bid, if pre-qualified, for the second bidding of the Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems under a Long-Term Lease Contract in the following municipalities: Isabela Province (Cluster 1) — Cabatuan, Mallig, Aurora, Quezon, Luna, San Mateo and Magdalena, Laguna (Single System) and for the Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems under a Long-Term Design-Build-Lease Contract in the municipality of San Mariano, Isabela (Single System). The Project is being financed by DBP with funding from the World Bank under the LGU-Urban Water and Sanitation Project through its Adaptable Program Loan.

Pre-qualification documents are available for issuance to interested potential bidders at the Program Management I (PM1) Office, 5th Floor, DBP Head Office Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City, Tel. No. (632) 840-34-35, Fax No. (632) 893-53-80; DBP Branch in Ilagan; DBP Santa Rosa Branch; and the offices of the Mayors of the participating municipalities. Documents shall be made available to interested bidders on February 10-21, 2003.

Three (3) copies of the duly accomplished pre-qualification statement together with all the documents required to support the statment shall be submitted to DBP Head Office c/o AVP Florino E. Diloy on or before 5:00 p.m. of February 27, 2003 (the "Submission Deadline").

The PBAC's of the participating LGUs reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informalities therein, or to accept such bids as can be demonstrated to be advantageous to the participating Local Government Units.

(PDI – February 9, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO REGISTER

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 40, the PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY is inviting prospective manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and contractors to apply for registration for the supply of the following goods and services for the year 2003:

TYPE OF GOODS AND SERVICES	
1. Computer Hardware and Accessories	1. Air-conditioning Equipment Preventive Maintenance Service and Repair
2. Computer Supplies	2. Computer Repair/Maintenance Service
3. Communications Equipment, Accessories and Supplies	3. Forwarding Services
4. Electrical and Construction Supplies	4. Internet Service Providers
5. Medicines, Medical Equipment and Supplies	5. Janitorial Services
6. Motor Vehicle Batteries	6. Contractors for Office Uniforms
7. Motor Vehicles Spare Parts	7. Pest Control Services
8. Motor Vehicle Tires	8. Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Services
9. Office Furniture	9. Security Services
10. Office Supplies	10. Office Equipment Repair Service
11. Photography Equipment and Supplies	11. Printing Services
12. Newspaper/Magazine Dealer or Publisher	
13. Cargo Seals	
14. Mineral Water	
15. Sanitizers and Deodorizers	
16. Plants and other Garden Supplies and Accessories	

Interested parties may obtain the registration requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (Php100.00).

Incomplete registration documents shall not be entertained. All applicants shall be notified on the result of the registration evaluation. Applicants who shall meet the registration requirements shall receive a certificate of registration and be included in our registry of suppliers and contractors. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 551-3445 (Eva Santos) and 551-3443 (Chris Ogali).

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY reserves the right to reject any or all applications without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to consider any applicant whose application is deemed most advantageous to the Authority. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by any parties in the preparation of their respective application, nor does the Authority guarantee that an award will be made.

The Bids and Awards Committee Chairman

(PDI–Feb. 9, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. RAFAEL SALUDO, JR.** whose photograph appears, and with last known address at Hula-Hula Olotanga, Zamboanga, Sibugay Province and at Villa Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City is no longer connected with Seachamp International Export Corporation, effective December 07, 2002.

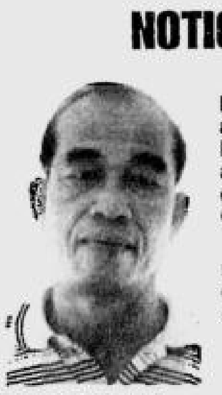
Any transaction entered with the above-named person shall not be honored by the company subsequent to the aforementioned date of termination.

Any information regarding the whereabouts of Mr. Rafael Saludo Jr. may be forwarded to Seachamp International Export Corporation, Building 2, Skydragon Compound, Domestic Road, Pasay City, telephone numbers *632) 833-1614 or (632) 831-6331.

RAFAEL SALUDO, JR.

(PDI - Feb. 9, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform the public that **MR. MARCELINO L. ESTILLORE** whose photograph appears, and with last known address at No. 22 Kasarinlan Street, Muzon, Malabon, Metro Manila and Labuan, Umingan, Pangasinan is no longer connected with Seachamp International Export Corporation, effective January 15, 2003.

Any transaction entered into with the above-named person shall not be honored by the company subsequent to the aforementioned date of termination.

Seachamp International
Export Corporation
Building 2, Skydragon Compound,
Domestic Road, Pasay City
Telephone numbers
(632)-1614 or (632) 831-6331

MARCELINO L. ESTILLORE

(PDI - Feb. 9, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

BLDG. #3 SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ
MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO (632) 743-83-01 LOCAL 1338
E-Mail Address. www.doh.gov.ph

31 January 2003

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Health invites sealed written bids for the Procurement of Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Supplies and for Brokerage Services.

Only duly accredited DOH suppliers/manufacturers and exclusive distributors as certified by the DOH Accreditation of Supplier's Committee for Hospital/Medical/Laboratory Supplies are qualified to participate for the Procurement of 10,500,000 pieces Autodisable Syringe 0.5 ml. and for Brokerage Services must be a license broker with a valid License to Operate and or Mayor's/Municipal Permit as Broker with the following schedule of activities:

PARTICULARS	ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS	OPENING OF BIDS
CATEGORY I: EPI SUPPLIES				
Procurement of 10,500,000 pcs Autodisable Syringe 0.5 ml	February 3 to 28, 2003 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	February 17, 2003 9:00 a.m.	March 3, 2003 9:00 a.m.	March 3, 2003 9:01 a.m.
CATEGORY II: SERVICES				
Brokerage Services	February 3 to 27 2003 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	February 14, 2003 9:00 a.m.	February 28, 2003 9:00 a.m.	February 28, 2003 9:01 a.m.

For further details/information, please contact COBAC Secretariat, Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. #26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, telefax no. (632) 711-68-31, tel. no. (632) 743-83-01 loc. 3626 & 3627.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE**, MD, MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Feb. 2 & 9, 2003)

TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE

LGTM Corporation with MR. TEODORO N. CAMACHO IV as president has been offering lots for sale at the 50,000 square meter property located at Munting Mapino, Naic, Cavite, which it calls the ST. JULIANNE HOMES (formerly JOJO VILLA SUBDIVISION).

Please be informed that all these lots are involved in a litigation, 2 Civil Cases and Criminal Case IS No. 02-146 filed last February 14, 2002 and pending before the Provincial Prosecutor's Office of Imus, Cavite.

The owner's duplicate copies of the lot's titles are all in the possession of our client, the Marcbilt Realty and Development Corporation (MRDC).

RICARDO J.M. RIVERA LAW OFFICE
Counsel for MRDC

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following Provisional Receipts of Scanasia Overseas, Inc. are missing:

PR number: 18615, 18635, 18642, 18723, 18729, 18730, 18731, 18732, 18733, 18746, 18779, 18786, 18787, 18759, 18776, 18792, 18901 and 18909

Above mentioned missing Provisional Receipts are considered null and void.

For further inquiries, please call accounting office of:
Scanasia- 815-01-23 Racit- 529-09-70

(PDI–Feb. 9, 2003)

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IN OVER 400 LOTS INCLUDING: -

VEHICLES - FORD F350 Flat Bed Truck; HYSTER 2T, (2) TOYOTA 3T cap. Forklift Trucks, YAMAHA Big Blue Motorcycle

MACHINE SHOP EQUIPMENT - WEBSTER & BENNET Vertical Turret Mill; MILWAUKEE Horizontal Milling Machine; PARKSON No 2 Horizontal Milling Machine; RIBBON RUR500 Universal Grinder; NACHI Plastic Injection Molder; Pipe Threading Machine, Genset, etc

RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT - Stainless Steel Breading Tables; Stainless Steel Table Top, Food Warmers, Hood, Stainless Steel Counter Table, SAMSUNG Refrigerator, Freezer, Microwave Ovens, etc.

OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Office Desks; White Boards, Asstd. Steel Lateral Filing Cabinets, Wooden Book Shelves, Chairs, Paper Shredder, AMANO Bundy Clocks, Fax Machines, etc.

MISC. & SCRAPS - FISCAN XE-60 120N Security X-Ray Baggage Scanner; 40' Office Container Van, Telephone Booth, Unused Tinted Glass, Upholstery Fabric; Carpets; Aircons, Asstd. Water Pumps, Electric Motors, Hydraulic Hoses, Oxygen Hoses, Cylinder Tanks, Pallet Trucks, Pressure Washer, Roller Mill, Collapsible Rack System, Asstd Monitors, CPU, Printers, VCD Players, Metal Detector, MAKITA Unused Power Tools, Submersible Pumps, etc

AT: HENRY BUTCHER AUCTION CENTER
BLDG. 7, VRCC ROAD, VETERANS CENTER, TAGUIG
AUCTION DATE: FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2003 10:30AM SHARP
VIEWING DATE: THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2003
9:00AM - 5:00PM AND MORNING OF SALE DAY
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP20,000 (UPON REGISTRATION)

HENRY BUTCHER

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC)
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION COMMISSION (NMIC) would like to invite interested suppliers with branches and/or service centers nationwide, duly accredited by this agency, to bid for twenty six (26) units personal computers, with the following specifications:

P4 processor, 2.0 GHz; 128 MB DDRAM Memory; P4 Motherboard with built-in audio & video card; 56 k internal Modem; 40 GB HDD (5400 RPM); 52x CD-ROM drive; 1.44 MB FDD; PS/2 Keyboard & Mouse; P4 Medium Tower ATX casing; Pair of amplified speaker; 15" CRT monitor; 500w AVR; 500wUPS

Non-accredited suppliers may still participate, provided the required accreditation documents are submitted on/or before **February 14, 2003 at 5:00 p.m.**

Accreditation forms may be secured from **MR. ISABELO C. RODRIGUEZ**, Property Officer at the telephone numbers and address stated below.

Pre-bidding conference shall be held **February 21, 2003, 10:00 a.m.** at NMIC Central Office Conference Room. Deadline for submission of bid documents shall be on February 24, 2003, 10:00 a.m. at which time and date bids shall be opened at NMIC Central Office Conference Room. Bidders are required to post a 5% bond of the total bid price.

All interested parties may submit bid documents to:

THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
National Meat Inspection Commission
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 921-4473 & 924-3119 • Telefax No. 924-7973

The NMIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formalities therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) **DR. MINDA S. MANANTAN**
Chairperson, NMIC-BAC

(PDI-Feb. 8, 9 & 10, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

TO ALL DELINQUENT MEMBERS OF SUBIC BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

NAMES:

1. Stillwell Sy
2. Jefferson Sy
3. George So
4. Tomas D. Santos
5. Michael Li Chua
6. Teresita Lim
7. Eduardo Tan, Jr.
8. Willy Ong
9. Alberto Tan Lee
10. Johnson Ong King
11. Rex Li Chua
12. Benito Chua
13. Stephen Wai Chua
14. Chen Koo Dih Ping Julia
15. In Ho Lee
16. Hany Lee
17. Pacita Yap
18. Jocelyn Tui
19. Kyung Ran Choi
20. Lim Hea Sook
21. Kim Kyung In
22. Kenneth Joseph Silayan Go
23. Antonio Pacis
24. Chen Le Chuen Lincoln
25. George Go
26. Kelvin Tan
27. Walter Power
28. Jeffrey Poon
29. Tan Tok Tee
30. Tan Ching Guan
31. Carmelo Carbornida
32. Tita Trillo
33. Alexander Sison
34. Agustin de Los Reyes
35. Antonio Alvares
36. Tony Co
37. Rosita Co
38. Victor Chua
39. William Co
40. Jennifer Po
41. Santos Tan
42. Roberto Co
43. Mylene Hao
44. Kim Hyung Shik
45. Nilo Sampayo
46. Francis Go
47. Rebecca Tongson
48. Angelina Ong King
49. Greta Go
50. Ruben Umali

Please be advised that SBGCC is offering the above-mentioned members an opportunity to finally settle their corresponding unpaid monthly on or before **February 15, 2003**. Otherwise, SBGCCI would be constrained to finally auction membership share with delinquent accounts. Payment may be made on an INSTALLMENT BASIS. For more details, please contact us at **535-7735**.

(PDI - Feb. 9, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Caraga Region
Agencia Espanola de Cooperación Internacional (AECI)
CARAGA FOOD SUFFICIENCY PROJECT (CFSP) PHASE I
Bel Air Subd., Km. 3, Libertad, Butuan City
Telefax 085-3417685

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Caraga through the Caraga Food Sufficiency Project, a Spanish Government funded development intervention, is now inviting all interested consulting firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the implementation of the:

"Feasibility and Detailed Engineering Studies for the Establishment of Tandag Fish port Facilities"

The eligibility requirements and bid documents shall be available at **NEDA Caraga CFSP BAC Secretariat** starting **February 10, 2003.**

The bidders shall submit their eligibility criteria requirements not later than **February 19, 2003, 7:00 p.m.** The conduct of eligibility check shall be done on **February 20, 2003.** Upon receipt of the Request for Proposal, the eligible bidder shall submit the Bid/Proposal for the technical and financial proposals in two (2) sealed envelopes at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission will be **February 28, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.**

The approved budget for the contract is **P1,210,000.**

NEDA Caraga/CFSP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. NEDA Caraga/CFSP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(PDI–Feb. 9 & 16, 2003)

NOTICE to the PUBLIC

GOLDEN ARCHES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION is the exclusive licensee of McDonald's Corporation U.S.A. in the Philippines and is the only entity authorized to use the McDonald's trademark and tradename and the business name "McDonald's Philippines" in the Philippines.

It has come to the attention of **GOLDEN ARCHES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** that there are individuals/entities conducting business and/or representing themselves as agents or employees of "McDonald's Philippines," without its authority or consent, to acquire goods and products from manufacturers and suppliers supposedly for use by Golden Arches Development Corporation/McDonald's Philippines. These individuals and entities issue invoices and receipts with only the business name "McDonald's Philippines" printed thereon. **GOLDEN ARCHES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION shall exhaust all remedies against these unscrupulous individuals and entities.**

The public is hereby warned against dealing with these individuals and entities and is hereby informed that **GOLDEN ARCHES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** is not in any manner connected with, involved in or liable for the transactions entered into by these individuals and entities.

PLATON MARTINEZ FLORES
SAN PEDRO & LEAÑO
Counsel for Golden Arches Development Corporation/McDonald's Philippines

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that IMUS HOME CARE FOR THE ELDERLY (IHCE), an American based institution has not given authority to any individual, group, agency or entity in the Philippines, to recruit caregivers for employment in the said institution.

(PDI - Feb. 9, 2003)

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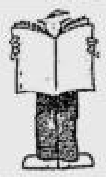
897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220



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09 February 2003
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Email: catering01066.westin.com;
Visit www.westin.com/manila

NATORI

3rd level, Rustan's Makati
2nd level, Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza

Sweet Nothings

People often celebrate Valentine's day by giving flowers, chocolates and cards, but why not do something unique for a change?

This coming **February 14, 2003**, Valentine's day, **INQUIRER MESSAGEBOARD** will give way to personal greetings, love quotes and declaration of love for that special someone in your life.

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SAMPLE ADS

Iane,

"LOVE" How can such a small word mean so much?

Happy Valentine's day!

love
Red

size: 1 col x 4 cm

Valentine's like you, Trish, don't come along everyday. I love you. – Paul

size: 3 lines

My heart beats for you and only for you, Tim. This Valentine's day, let's paint the town red – Mimi

size: 4 lines

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MESSAGEBOARD

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
CLASSIFIEDS

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Hajji, Rachel in stage reunion

"LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER." Hajji and Rachel Alejandro in an evening of memorable music.

THE ORIGINAL "Kilabot ng Kolehiyala" Hajji Alejandro, teams up with daughter Rachel Alejandro in a rare reunion onstage as they perform in an evening of memorable music, Feb. 15 at Casino Filipino-Tagaytay.

Known for such hits as "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika," "Nakapagtataka" and "Panakip Butas," Hajji's songs became part of the hits that would coin the phrase, OPM (Original Pilipino Music). His hits have remained timeless and through the years with countless remakes and revivals, there is only one, Hajji Alejandro.

Rachel returns to the entertainment stage after a successful run as the energetic Mimi in the Asian version of the Tony award winning musical "Rent" in Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Gifted with a rich voice, effervescent personality and scintillating stage presence, Rachel has always fascinated audiences everywhere she performs.

Hajji and Rachel will fascinate the audience in "Like Father, Like Daughter," produced by Events and Shows, Inc., with Casino Filipino-Tagaytay, Woman Today, Athena Milk for Women, Air Philippines, and Air 21. The show is sponsored in part by Sunrise Holiday Mansion, McDonalds, Tagaytay Haus of Binalot, RCJC Flower Shop, Bag of Beans Tagaytay and MC Mountain Home Apartelle.

Media partners are RX 93.1, City Lite 88.3 and Magic 89.9 dwTM.

Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets, Sunrise Holiday Mansion-Tagaytay and Casino-Filipino-Tagaytay Concierge Section.

Ticket holders can get a 50 percent discount on room accommodation with free breakfast at Sunrise Holiday Mansion Tagaytay on the concert day itself.

For inquiries and ticket reservation, call Events and Shows, Inc. at 688-4404 / 705-1751, cellphone 0916-5314058 or Casino Filipino Tagaytay at (046) 413-1103.

DE LOS REYES' BEST. "Magnifico" stars Gloria Romero with Dindin Llarena, Isabella de Leon and Jiro Manio.

DepEd endorses 'Magnifico' film

"MAGNIFICO," the second offering of Violett Films, is being endorsed by the Department of Education (DepEd), which has recommended the movie as a must-see for students in all levels—elementary, secondary and collegiate—nationwide.

This has delighted and inspired lady producer Violeta Sevilla whose initial production was a comedy, "Cass and Carry."

Amazingly, there has never been a single negative word about "Magnifico," which is slated to be shown starting Feb. 12 in Metro Manila theaters. The movie is being profusely praised for its high production values and entertainment quality.

"Magnifico" has been previewed thrice at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and everyone who has seen it was all praise for the movie.

Among the rave reviews "Magnifico" generated are as follows:

"Would that we all support this movie with lots of heart and the strength of its quiet and hopeful honesty."—Rina Jimenez-David, Philippine Daily INQUIRER.

"Magnifico is magnificent." —Mario Hernando, Malaya.

"Truly a maleficent film. Bravo! Magnifico!"—Butch Francisco, Philippine Star.

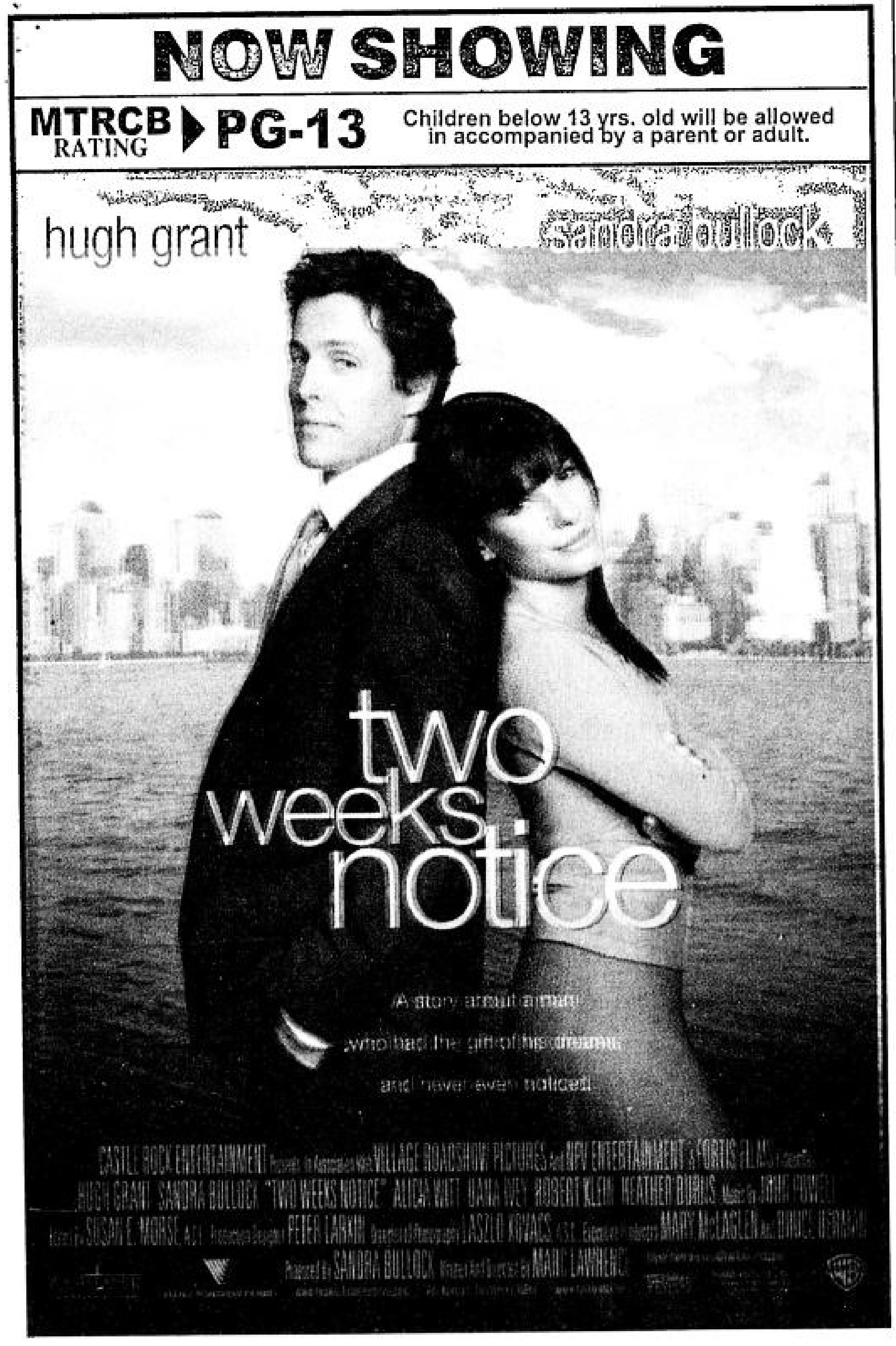
"The first really good movie of 2003." —Lito B. Zulueta, Philippine Daily INQUIRER.

"The whole thing is very Pinoy and is a particularly welcome intrusion in our times when people are despairing in this country." —Conrado de Quiros, Philippine Daily INQUIRER.

"Philippine cinema's latest classic." —Ramon Bayron, PDI.

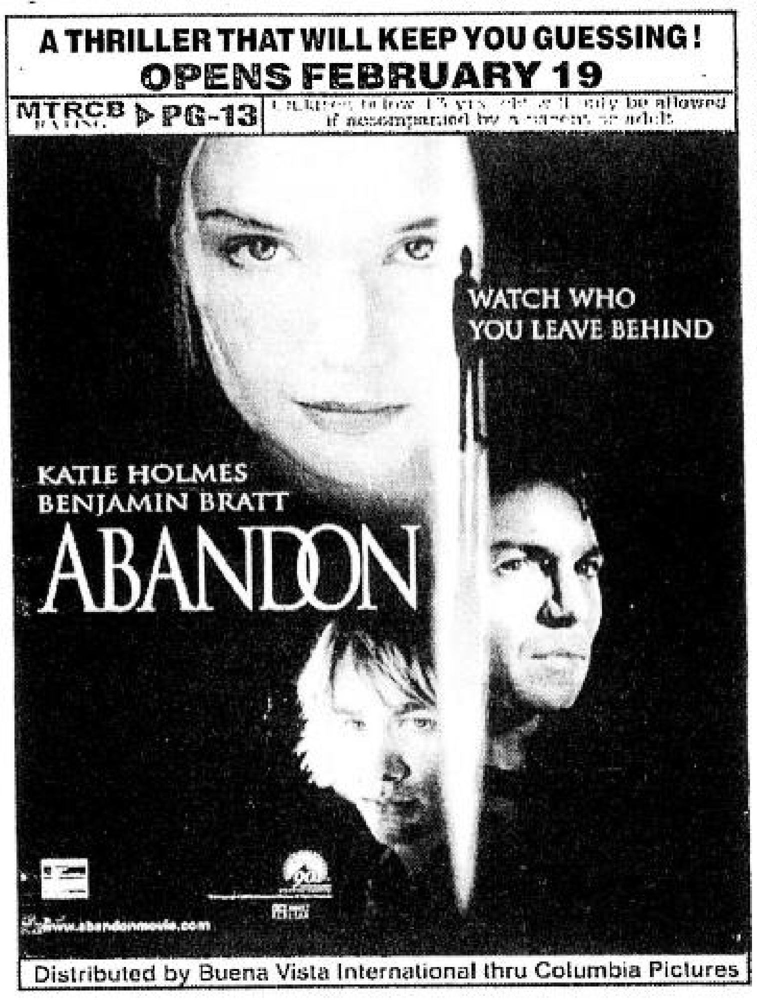
"Magnifico," directed by Maryo J. delos Reyes, stars Lorna Tolentino, Albert Martinez, Tonton Gutierrez, Jiro Manio and Gloria Romero.

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
HERO
NOW SHOWING

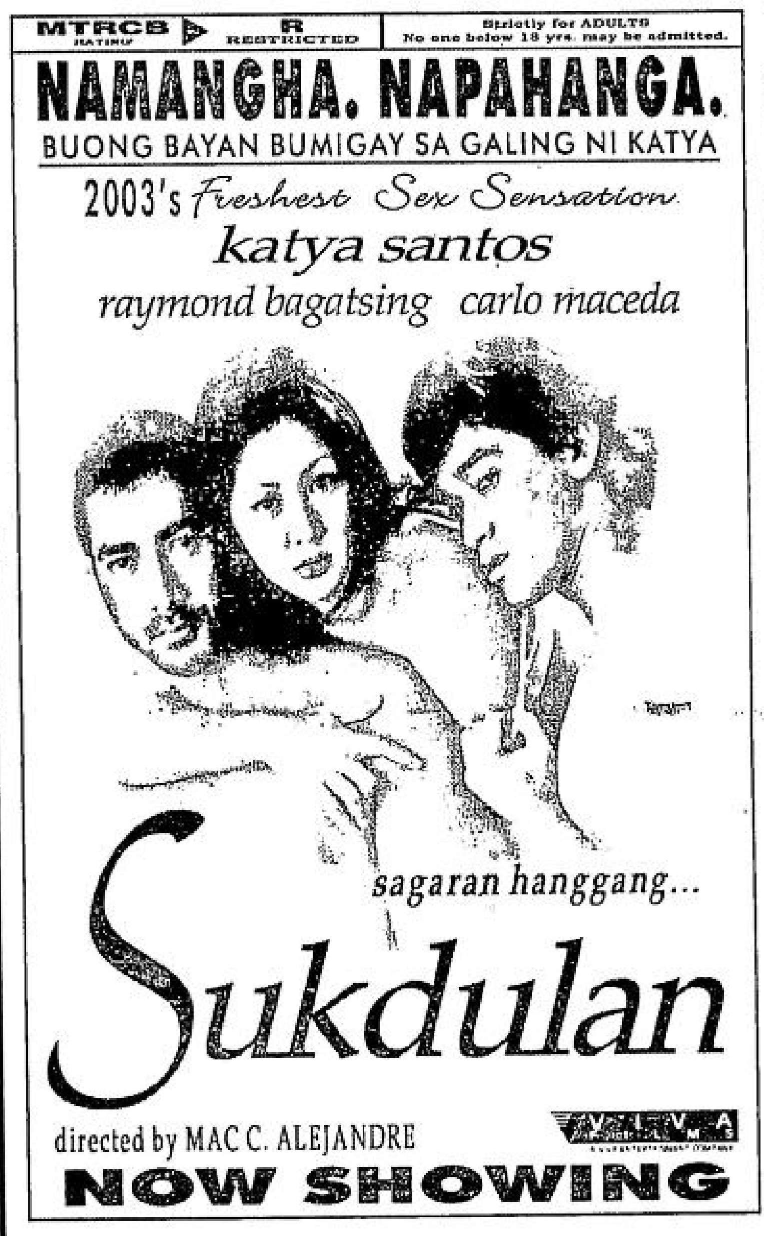


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
hugh grant sandra bullock
two weeks notice
A story about a man who had the gift of his dreams and never even noticed.

MADONNA
SWEPT AWAY
AYALA CINEMAS
Laugh out loud & fall in love this February only at
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
Imagine being shipwrecked on a beautiful island - with someone you really can't stand.
Madonna, Adriano Giannini, Bruce Greenwood, Jeanne Tripplehorn & David Thornton
Guy Ritchie directs wife MADONNA in this romantic comedy, where a young sailor (ADRIANO GIANNINI) is cast adrift on an island with his employer, a rich self-centered woman who is used to having her way. Cut off from society, he reverses their roles, stripping her of her pride and controlling her completely. Until, that is, she falls in love with him.
OPENS FEBRUARY 12
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18



A THRILLER THAT WILL KEEP YOU GUESSING!
OPENS FEBRUARY 19
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
WATCH WHO YOU LEAVE BEHIND
KATIE HOLMES
BENJAMIN BRATT
ABANDON
www.abandonmovie.com
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
NAMANGHA. NAPAHANGA.
BUONG BAYAN BUMIGAY SA GALING NI KATYA
2003's Freshest Sex Sensation
katya santos
raymond bagatsing carlo maceda
sagaran hanggang...
Sukdulan
directed by MAC C. ALEJANDRE
NOW SHOWING

THEY'RE BACK!
DOUBLE THE FUN, DOUBLE THE ACTION OF SHANGHAI NOON!
OPENS FEBRUARY 12!
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
JACKIE CHAN OWEN WILSON
SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Richard and Lucy guest in Inday's TV show

POPULAR show biz couple Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres will talk to host Inday Badiday in "Heart to Heart," 11 a.m. to 12 noon today on GMA 7.

Richard and Lucy look back and also talk about the present and the future.

The couple is blessed with a daughter, Juliana Marie, who makes their lives more fulfilled and contented.

Goma, then the country's most eligible bachelor, was swept off his feet by the porcelain beauty from the South (Ormoc). Their romance, followed by the public and press, culminated in a fairy tale-like wedding at the Ormoc Cathedral.

Lucy, they say, "tamed" Goma, making him more domesticated, spiritual and religious, hearing Mass and reciting the rosary regularly.

Mrs. Gomez is beautiful inside out, admired and loved by her husband's many friends in and out of showbiz.

Goma is an effective leader of the movie industry, intelligent, sober and sensible. A fighter, he was on the forefront of the rally against the impending value-added tax (VAT) increase.

Inday's "Heart to Heart" asks the questions and Goma answers straight from the heart—with beauteous Lucy by his side.

The questions cover a lot of ground: fatherhood, being a husband and his show biz career.

Goma has best actor trophies for "Dahas," "Wating," "Hintayin Kita sa Langit," "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" and "Ikaw Lamang."

"Heart to Heart" is produced by Kitchie Benedicto, directed by Bert de Leon and written by Bibeth Orteza and Anselle Beluso.

ILANG ARAW NA LANG FEB 12 NA!
PELIKULA at LIPUNAN 2003

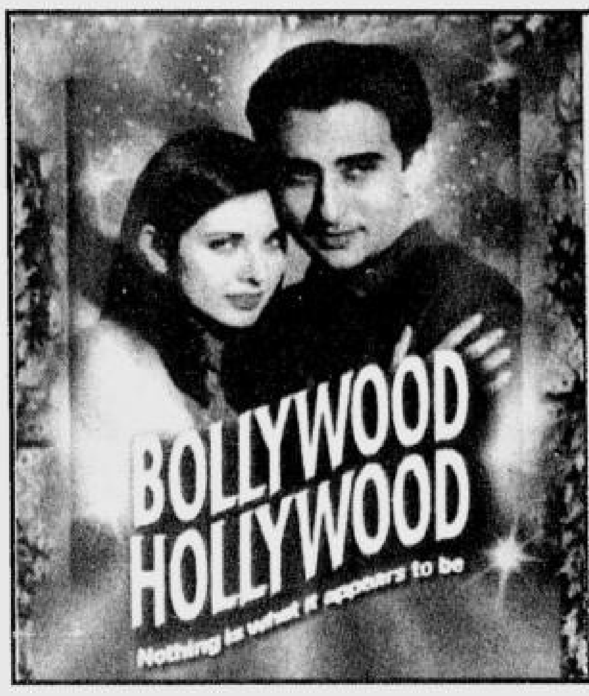
Film and Masscom Teachers & students, Film Critics, Historians and General Moviegoers are invited to the BOOK LAUNCHING of

NICK DEOCAMPO'S
CINE: SPANISH INFLUENCES ON EARLY CINEMA IN THE PHILIPPINES

at Pelikula at Lipunan 2003
on February 12, 5:30pm
at Lobby of Cinema 6, SM Megamall

WHAT FILM EXPERTS SAY:
"...A valuable contribution to the histriography of Philippine movies."
-Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera, Magsaysay Awardee
"(promises to be) the definitive work in the history of film in the Philippines."
-Ambeth Ocampo, NHI Director

cine: Spanish Influences on Early Cinema in the Philippines
Nick Deocampo


BOLLYWOOD HOLLYWOOD
Nothing is what it appears to be

"UNCONVENTIONAL LOVE" BLOOMS
February 13
Exclusively at SM Megamall
For the first time, two cinematic genres collide in a musical romantic comedy about a world that is a bizarre and a beautiful fusion of East and West and where harmony exists in contradictions!
STARRING RAHUL KHANNA LISA RAY MOUSHUMI CHATERJEE DINA PATHAK KULBUSHAN KHARBANDA

SM Megamall, Cinema 6
February 12-18 Schedule
MOWELFUND FILM INSTITUTE

PELIKULA at LIPUNAN 2003
DON'T FAIL TO WATCH THE MOST EXCITING FILMS IN THE FIRST BIG FILM EVENT OF THE YEAR!

time Feb	9 am / 11:30 am / 2 pm	4:30 pm	6:30 pm	9:30 pm
12 wed	Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon by Eddie Romero MAKAPESPA SCREENINGS		SALUTE TO DOLPHY Facifica Falayfay by Luciano Carlos	OPENING FILM! El Crimen del Padre Amaro by Carlos Carrera
13 thu	Muro-ami by Marilou-Diaz-Abaya MAKAPESPA SCREENINGS	Jack and Jill by Mar Torres	USA/INDIA Bollywood Hollydood by Deepa Mehta	U.K. Shadow of the Vampire by Elias Merhige
14 fri	Anak by Rory Quintos MAKAPESPA SCREENINGS	Family Planning by Luciano Carlos	VALENTINE FILM! A Transistor Love Story by Pen-ek Ratanaruang	USA People I Know by Daniel Algrant
15 sat	Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon by Eddi Romero MAKAPESPA SCREENINGS	Omeng Satanasia by Frank Gray Jr.	INDONESIA Whispering Sands by Nan Achnas	20th Anniversary Oliver, Ang Magpakailanman, The Great Smoke w/ New Shorts
16 sun	Muro-ami by Marilou-Diaz-Abaya MAKAPESPA SCREENINGS	East Meets West From New York to Cubao Short Films	PHIL. / JAPAN Small Home by Koji Imaizumi	JAPAN All ABout Lily Chou Chou by Shunji Iwai
17 mon	Anak by Rory Quintos MAKAPESPA SCREENINGS	Pagdating sa Dulo by Ishmael Bernal	U.K. Titus Andronicus by Julie Taymor	JAPAN Hush by Ryosuke Hashiguchi
18 tue	Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon by Eddie Romero MAKAPESPA SCREENINGS	Waywaya by Lamberto Avellana	CLOSING FILM! The Hours by Stephen Daldry	CLOSING FILM! Punch Drunk Love by P.T. Anderson

SM Cinema Tlip Philippine Airlines Carl's Jr. Serious. Delicious Barceló Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TWO WEEKS NOTICE P13 12:30,2:45,5:00, 7:15,9:30	I SPY P13 11:10,1:20,3:30, 5:40,7:50,10:00	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN P13 11:10,2:00,4:50, 7:40,10:30
HERO P13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	HOT CHICK P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	TWO WEEKS NOTICE P13 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	SUKDULAN
Ali 2	THE RING
Ali 3	I SPY
Ali 4	HERO
Ali 5	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
Ali 6	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
Ali 7	BELOW
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	BALAT SIBUYAS
Farmers 2	I SPY
ARANETA COLISEUM	
FEB 13	RONAN KEATING CONCERT
FEB 14	SIDE A AND FREESTYLE
FEB 15	ABBA TRIBUTE CONCERT
ELEPHANT WORLD	
FEB 9	3 PM / 5PM
FEB 11	10 AM / 3 PM
FEB 12	10 AM / 3 PM

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DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
TWO WEEKS NOTICE
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
P13

CINEMA 2
I-SPY
11:50, 2:05, 4:20 6:35, 8:50
P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BAKAT / BRAZEN WOMAN
ODEON	BALAT SIBUYAS
ODEON-2	MASARAP ANG UNANG KAGAT / NAIIBANG HAYOP
ROBEN	BALAT SIBUYAS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY KIDS 2 / MASTER DISGUISE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SUKDULAN
CORONET B	TUXEDO / TEENAGE SEDUCTION
QUEZON-1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
REMAR	BALAT SIBUYAS
REMAR-2	SUKDULAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SUKDULAN
B	BALAT SIBUYAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-61 TO 70
CINEMA-1	I SPY
CINEMA-2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BALAT SIBUYAS
CINEMA-2	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
CINEMA-3	THE RING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FEMME FATALE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-6	LASTIKMAN
CINEMA-7	8 MILE
CINEMA-8	HOT CHICK
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HERO
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	I SPY
CINEMA-12	SUKDULAN
CINEMA-14	BELOW
CINEMA-15	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LANES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

STILL SHOWING
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SM SOUTHMALL, FESTIVAL MALL
FEB 12 SM FAIRVIEW, SM BACOOR, SM CEBU, AYALA CEBU

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Experience Fear Worse Than Nightmare!!!
Ring
Circle of Evil
"There's a video. If you see it you have to show it to someone else. After seven days... you die!
JAPANESE VERSION

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5TH "ACTION COMEDY" DAY!
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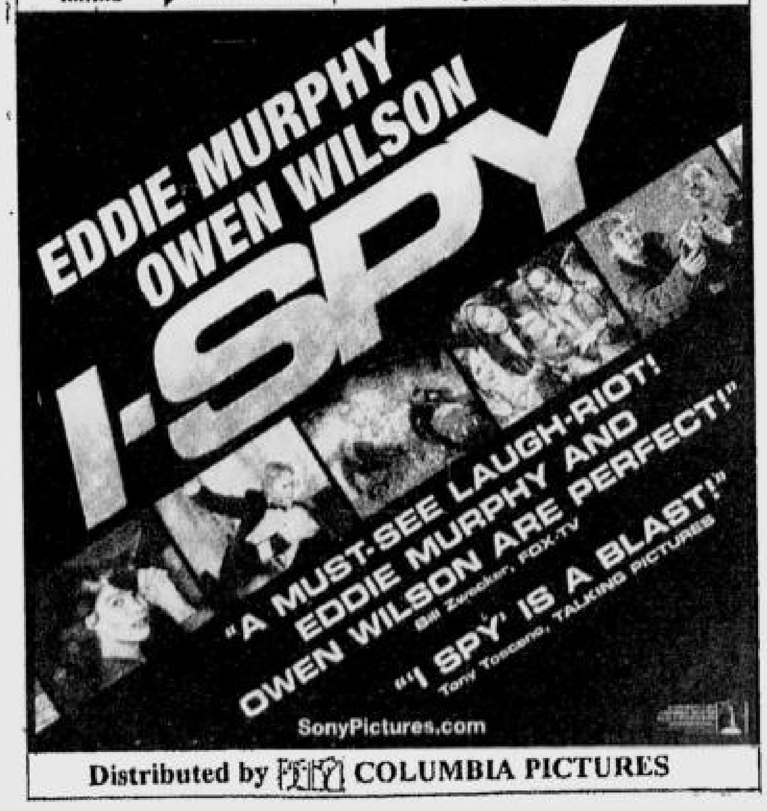
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Bill Zwecker, FOX-TV
"'I SPY' IS A BLAST!"
Tony Toscano, TALKING PICTURES
SonyPictures.com

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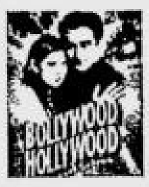
PELIKULA at LIPUNAN 2003
DON'T MISS THE MOST EXCITING FILMS IN THE FIRST BIG FILM EVENT OF THE YEAR!

El Crimen Del Padre Amaro
by Carlos Carrera
Feb 12; 9:30

Hush!
by Hashiguchi Ryosuke
Feb 17; 9:30



Bollywood Hollywood
by Deepa Mehta
Feb 13; 6:30

Punch-Drunk Love
by P.T. Anderson
Feb 18; 9:30

The Hours
by Stephen Daldry
Feb 18; 6:30

A Transistor Love Story
by Pen-ek Ratanaruang
Feb 14; 9:30

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Sunday BIZ

BONG Garrovillo, Ruthie Santiago, Lydia Paredes, and Lanelle Fernando.

Four ladies turn passion into a crafty venture

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

THE MOVIE 'Ghost' did more than make the song, the most widely sung piece in the country for months. It made people curious, at the least, about pottery making.

But it was not the movie which prompted four ladies to get together, soil their hands in clay ala Demi Moore to teach others to do the same.

It was their similar passion for the art that pushed them to set up The Pottery Exchange—a venue to learn various arts and crafts that can also equip the learners with enough know-how to start off a business.

Lanelle Abueva Fernando, Bong Agcaoili Garrovillo, Ruthie Lim Santiago and Lydia Mabanta Paredes recently moved the Exchange to Libis from their old home in the basement of the Boneventure Building in Ortigas.

The four have always been into some sort of craft, in particular pottery.

Lanelle took up Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines and took a three year apprenticeship in a ceramics school in Japan, This was in the late '70s. She loved the course so much she decided to study further and her credits from the University of Idaho has given her the license to to teach ceramics, pottery and other arts.

Lydia, wife of Apo Hiking Society member Jim Paredes, studied pottery under Lanelle in 1991. They discover they are UP Fine Arts batchmates.

When Lanelle's husband got sick, Lydia took over her classes and taught pottery from her garage in 1995. Two years later she went into it full time.

Bong, wife of another Apo member, Buboy and Ruthie, whose husband was with the original Apo Hiking love candle-making and working with polymer clay and crafts. They attended a seminar under Kazumo Kono, author of a book on the clay technique of Millefiori.

In 1997 the four traveled to Nepal, a place where Lanelle had lived in learning various arts. It was from that trip that the idea of setting up a craft school came up.

Their new studio is at the Eastwood's Home and Lifestyle Section. It offers Working on the Wheel Workshops plus the foundation classes of hand-building lessons in pottery and others.

A few months before they opened, SundayBiz had a chat with the three (Ruthie could not make it) and they shared their learnings from having the Exchange.

Bong points out that their students are as varied as the arts they teach.

But one thing appears distinct—that crafts provide stressed out professionals with a venue to forget the pressures of work for a few hours.

"We get a lot of schools attending but we also have doctors and lawyers," she says.

Lanelle says crafts can be "a way of life. The

FOUR/9

This engineer sends own workers abroad

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

THE MALHABOUR men (middle) with two of their apprentices (far left and far right).

JOHN MICHAEL P. AVELINO

NORMALLY, entrepreneurs would hold on to their best workers, offering them incentives and other perks just to keep them with the company and assure quality work. This is a strategy that is said to guarantee a businessman's success.

Amado Z. Malhabour Jr., a professional electrical engineer and registered master plumber who operates three electrical and plumbing services shops here, does otherwise.

He eagerly sends abroad the workers he trained and learned to trust, just when they have picked up the secrets of the trade and could do their work with eyes closed.

He says this strategy may not make him a millionaire but it gives him a sense of fulfillment for having helped others make their lives better.

Amado Jr. and his three sons (Amado Jr. III, Amado Jr. IV and Amado Jr. V) who are all master plumbers and master electricians manage their shops at M.H. Del Pilar Street in Molo district, Balantang in Jaro District and at the Central Market in downtown Iloilo City.

The shops' name is simply "Malhabour" with a list of services they offer and the tagline: "*Gusto mo bala mag abroad bilang electrician/rewinder? Tuon diri, wala bayad.* (Would you like to go abroad as electrician/rewinder? Study here for free.)"

A different businessman

Amado Jr. is some kind of mystery here in the city as he is the only businessman who offers on-the-job training, lessons and even placement services for free to future electricians and plumbers who wish to work abroad. He even spends for advertisements.

"As long as they (students, workers and apprentices) stay with me in the shop, are disciplined, observant and willing to learn, I'll help them pass the electrician's board as well as assist them with their papers to go abroad in search of greener pastures," said Amado Jr. in heavily accented Hiligaynon.

According to Amado Jr., he must have sent more than a hundred of his wards to work abroad as skilled electricians, one of them a female nurse who took Malhabour's lessons seriously, passed the electrician's board as master electrician and worked in a luxury liner in the 1980s.

"I don't keep track of the number of people I have helped nor do I expect anything in return. A postcard or a letter would be enough for me," said Amado Jr. whose father was also an electrician.

Shared blessings

Amado Jr. started helping would-be electricians and plumbers after having enjoyed his own blessings as a *balikbayan* from Guam where he worked from 1966 to 1969 at the US Navy Naval Ship Repair Facility there.

With his savings, he put up his first electrical shop lodged between two buildings at Amigo Plaza, at Iznart St. in downtown Iloilo City. He transferred twice, finally settling in front of the Iloilo Memorial Park in Balantang, Jaro District. The shop and his house occupy 500 square meters of space. He put up his two other shops within five years.

Amado Jr., a native of Baluarte, Molo district, first helped relatives whom he trained in plumbing and "rewinding" or the manual replacement of the coils of an electric motor pump when it burns out.

He also gave them lessons in electrical technology, plumbing technology, welding and other related skills until they passed the requisite board exams. He would also go out of his way to find them jobs abroad.

"It felt so good helping others that I extended my offer to complete strangers. That is why I had my offer announced on radio," said Amado Jr.

At this time, there are five students under Amado Jr.'s tutelage whose skills he employs every time there is work in any of his three shops.

According to Zacarias Rentoy, 26, from San Joaquin, Iloilo, Malhabour Jr. gives him books to study. He arrived at the shop in April 2001 after finishing his Fisheries course and will take the electricians' board in April this year.

For 21-year-old Agustin de la Cruz, working with Malhabour is the best way to go abroad.

"I want to have skills because it is difficult to find work without it," said De la Cruz, a graduate of BS Marine Transportation from John B. Lacson Colleges in Bacolod City.

A typical day for Amado Jr.'s student-workers begins at 8 a.m. when they would listen to their "employer's" lectures. If there is work to do, they would watch Amado Jr.

THIS/9

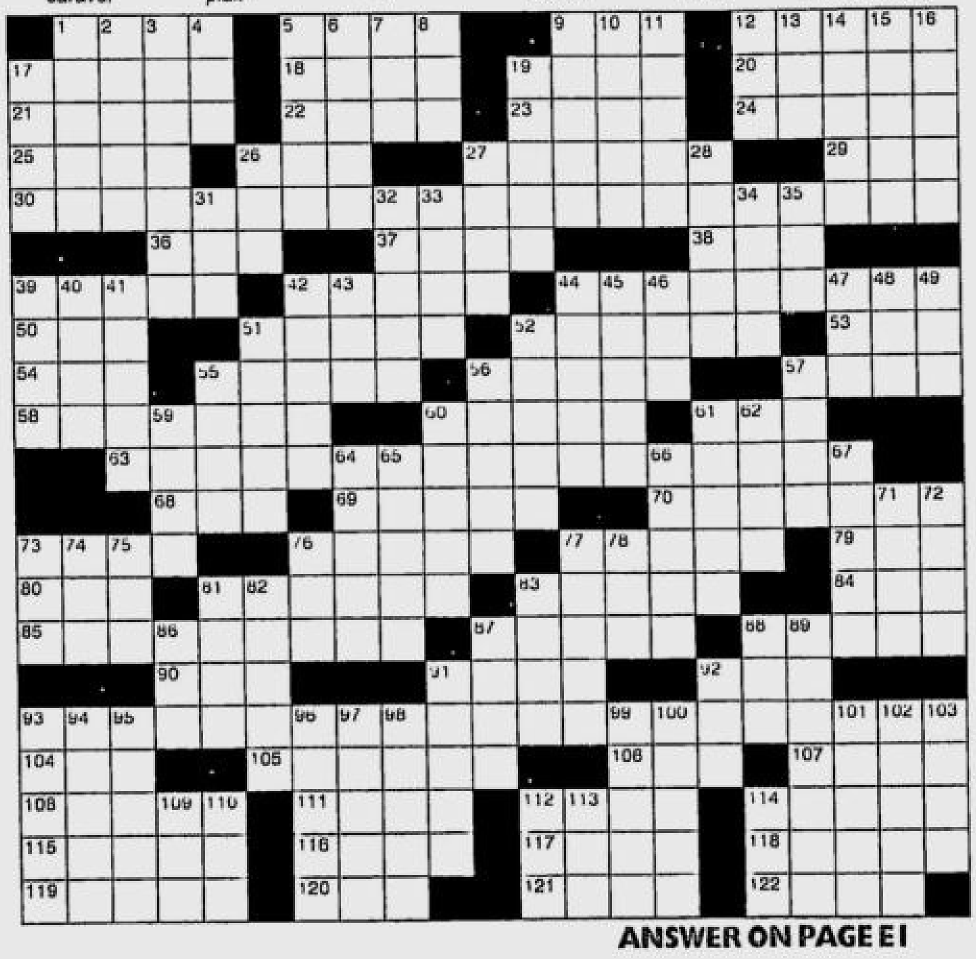
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

AROMANCE

ACROSS
1 Tower town
5 Ditch
9 Married Mlle.
12 "— Life" ('66 hit)
17 Acted like grandma
18 Sills solo
19 Tam material
20 Sit in on a class
21 Actor Alex
22 "Aida" river
23 "Meter" leader
24 Actress Rivera
25 Throb
26 Loser to DDE
27 Author Christie
29 Stirrup site
30 Riddle: Part 1
36 Gridiron position
37 Z — zebra
38 Present for pop
39 Dutch export
42 Ms. Silkwood
44 Wine variety
50 Sought office
51 Famed caravel
52 Om, for instance
53 Actress Joanne
54 ABA member
55 Skater Hughes
56 Come out of one's shell
57 Dutch export
58 Sharif role
60 22 Across feature
61 Internet acronym
63 Riddle: Part 2
68 Permit
69 Grows light
70 Studio
73 Word with camp or tree
76 "— Rolling Stone" ('65 hit)
77 Groundwork
79 Before, to Byron
80 Mackie or Marley
81 Wobble
83 Add a lane
84 It may be white
85 Titmouse kin
87 Emulate Elle
88 — Castro
90 "— vous plait"
91 Joyce's land
92 Implore
93 Answer to riddle
104 "Exodus" protagonist
105 Plaza Hotel kid
106 Get a galley going
107 Marineland performer
108 Kanga's creator
111 Construct
112 Crow's toe
114 TV's "Mad — You"
115 Celebrity
116 Mispickel and galena
117 Costa —
118 Rampal's instrument
119 — apso
120 Draft agcy.
121 Dentist's directive
122 French bean?

DOWN
1 Doggy
2 Restless
3 Left the Union
4 Fuss and feathers
5 A Lennon sister
6 — setter
7 West's "Diamond —"
8 — kwon do
9 Drilling site?
10 Club creed
11 Yale or Root
12 Tic- — -toe
13 "What?"
14 "Farewell, Francois!"
15 Big guy
16 Austere
17 Close the curtains
19 Cart
26 Postfix
27 Exiled dictator
28 Mary of "Dodsworth"
31 Claire or Balin
32 Big revolver?
33 Lost
34 "The Ramayana" heroine
35 Barbie's boyfriend
39 Austrian city
40 Solemn statement
41 "Wait — Dark" ('67 film)
42 Ballet company
43 Santa —, CA
44 Smith or Page
45 Like Machu Picchu
46 Utmost
47 Bizarre
48 Nest egg
49 Zombie base
51 Debra of "Love Me Tender"
52 Fountain treats
55 Use coupons
56 Shampoo ingredient
57 Middle Eastern airline
59 Electrical measure
60 Librarian Melvil
61 "The Addams Family" actor
62 Pindaric poetry
64 Stop on —
65 Delibes opera
66 Blackboard support
67 Cry uncle
71 Cleveland's lake
72 Stagger
73 English channel?
74 Fireworks reaction
75 Kimono cummerbund
76 Peeper protector
77 Senator from Delaware
78 Humorist George
81 Stowe gear
82 Bisect
83 Sported
86 Civil War initials
87 Pixie and Dixie
88 Charge
89 Vile
91 Road curves
92 Luxury car
93 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"
94 Maestro Leinsdorf
95 Novelist Cather
96 St. — fire
97 Savanna sounds
98 Startled cry
99 Vestige
100 Dubuque denizen
101 Game fish
102 Intense
103 Behind schedule
109 Mil. base
110 Homeric character
112 — -Magnon
113 Back talk
114 Sternward



ANSWER ON PAGE E1

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

FORMER President Corazon Aquino

An exuberant lunch with Cory Aquino

This was not your usual 'women who lunch' gathering but an intimate celebration of a 70th birthday

Text and photos
by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz
Contributor

TWO weeks after former President Corazon Aquino's more public birthday celebration at the Cojuangco family home came the ladies' lunch for her given by spouses of the members of her Cabinet during her administration, otherwise known as the Bigay Puso volunteers.

The venue was Morita's, a wildly exuberant restaurant in Pasig run by an octogenarian artist, Morita Guerrero.

This group used to meet more regularly for birthdays until more pressing concerns and issues preoccupied them and ladies' lunches seemed a frivolity. So this was an eagerly awaited gathering of old 'friends, again rounded up by Madeleine Lim, a Cory intimate and official group organizer—but via e-mail this time.

Aquino had encouraging words for Cora Abalos and Susan Pagdaganan, who were among the few present whose husbands are still in government service. When there was a brief exchange on states of health and re-

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Blind Sicilian healed by Padre Pio visiting the Philippines

GEMMA di Giorgi was born blind, her eyes having no pupils. She would have been blind for the rest of her life had not her grandmother took matters into her own hands and brought the girl in 1947 to Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo.

When the little girl was brought to Padre Pio, the holy priest made the Sign of the Cross on her eyelids and told the grandmother to prepare Gemma for Confession and Holy Communion. Gemma, .who is in her late 50s, is coming to the Philippines with the help of the Padre Pio Healing Centers here, and make a testimony of her healing. Gemma met a Filipina named Fely Burgi who asked me late last year how to reach the Padre Pio Healing Centers here. I told her to call Chito Bertol, manager of the Manila Seedling Bank, who was also healed by Padre Pio. Chito's leg was going to be amputated in 1997, but he prayed to Padre Pio and was healed.

Arriving on Feb. 19 from Rome, Gemma will be welcomed by the St. Padre Pio's Prayer Group of Ayala Alabang and the Philippine Center of St. Padre Pio, who will host her stay in the Philippines.

Schedule of her talks follows: Feb. 22, Saturday, 7 p.m., St. Jerome Emiliani Church, Alabang; Feb. 23, Sunday, 9 a.m., Ayala Alabang, with healing Mass; Feb. 25, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Divine Savior Parish, Northview Fairview, Quezon City with Holy Mass by Fr. Victor Emmanuel Clemence; Feb. 27, Thursday, 7 p.m., Center for Peace, J.P. Rizal, Muntinlupa City; Feb. 28, Friday, departure for Bacolod and Cebu courtesy of Ms Cuenco.

March 2, return to Manila; March 3, 6:30 p.m., healing Mass by Fr. Teofilo Rustia, Manila Seedling Bank, Quezon Blvd. corner Edsa; March 6, 6 p.m., St. Francis Church, Shaw Blvd.; and March 7, Friday 9 a.m., Ayala Alabang, with Padre Pio Prayer Group.

CLAUDIA Mello and Leonor Kilayko

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Gemma di Giorgi comes from a poor family, so her trip to the Philippines is sponsored by Padre Pio devotees, but she needs more assistance. Those who wish to help can call Sr. Maripi Pironilla at (0916) 840-8968; Spirit of Love Community, Sr. Myrna Serrano, tel. 929-3056; Philippine Center for Padre Pio, Sr. Didi Rodriguez or Sr. Teresa Dizon, tel. 634-3668.

I wrote about Gemma last year before the canonization of Padre Pio on June 16 in Rome. Little did I know that we would be able to see her here. She's one living testimony of Padre Pio's miraculous intercession. I also did not expect that I would be able to visit with some pilgrims the shrine of Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy.

Healing Center

Father Diwane Cacao, charismatic healer, built the Sancti Dei Healing Center from scratch on a piece of land donated by Zenaida Umali in Lopez Village, Los Baños, Laguna. But it was built by the grace of God and will be blessed by Bishop Francisco San Diego today. Sponsors of the event are Belen and Tony Martel.

Father Cacao is assisted by volunteers who catch people "slain" when Fr. Cacao heals them. They include Aida Aranza, Fe Baútista, Minette Domingo, Cora Avanzado, Mike Rillera, Baby Matienzo, Gay Escobin, Nene Maala and Eve Guia.

Fr. Teofilo Rustia's Healing Mass on Feb. 13, Thursday, at 7 p.m. in St. Francis Church, Shaw Blvd., Pasig, will center on "Healing the Family." Father Rustia is the spiritual director of the Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry at 55 Scout Santiago St., QC.

The center will hold a special celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Feb. 12 with Holy Mass and healing, 4-6 p.m.

Support for cancer kids

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) of San Fernando de Dilao Parish in Paco held recently a fund-raising dance at the Philippine Columbian for cancer patients in the pediatrics ward of the Philippine General Hospital. Spearheading the event were Sol Alturas Yu, CWL president; Viring Grecia, Letty Cruz, Peachy Mallari and Norma Upata.

Nuns need help

Carmelite Sister Ma. Elena Tolentino is asking for help in building a concrete fence around their property for protection.

She wrote: "We are contemplative Carmelite nuns here in Burgos, Pangasinan. We, the founding members from our motherhouse in Guiguinto, Bulacan, were given the mission to establish a house of prayer and penance here. So far, we have received four new members and are about to welcome two more.

"We started the construction of our monastery in 1995. After seven years, the building is not yet totally finished. However, we are contented with what we have accomplished so far. Our concern right now is the concrete fence around the monastery, which is situated in a 3.9-ha lot. Several unfavorable experiences made us realize that we had to defend ourselves from intruders by building a concrete fence around our monastery.

"People, mostly poor and uneducated, who get drunk and get out of control, enter our premises and damage our property. With the goodness of heart and generosity associated with your name, will you please help us build this much-needed concrete fence? The total project cost, which is about P700,000, is just beyond our means to raise."

Those who wish to help can write Sr. Elena Tolentino, Prioress, Carmel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tambacan, Burgos, 2410 Pangasinan or text her at (0917) 838-5690.

Thank you for your kindness.

For Negros museums

The Silay Heritage Foundation will present international concert pianist Leonor Kilayko today at the Prea I of the L Fisher Hotel in Bacolod City. Part of the proceeds of the concert will go to the preservation of the Bernardino Jalandoni House in Silay City, the birthplace of activist priest Father Jalandoni.

> Gemma di Giorgi is coming to the Philippines to make a testimony of her healing

German Ambassador Herbert Jess and his wife Micheline are going to Bacolod especially for the concert. Ambassador Jess invited Kilayko to play at the embassy residence last April. It was the first time in the history of the embassy that a pianist had been invited.

You can be a priest

Single men I know are thinking of entering the priesthood or the religious life. Fr. Roberto Gaa, vocations director of the Holy Apostle Senior Seminary, confirms this in a letter saying, "Yes, you can still be a priest," referring to single professionals.

Father Gaa wrote: "The Holy Apostles Senior Seminary, a diocesan seminary that caters to those called 'late-in-life,' would like to announce that the application process is ongoing until the end of February.

If you are between 25-40 years old, a college graduate with at least two years of work experience, single, and feel the call to serve the Lord through the ministry of the diocesan priesthood, why not give them a call at 895-8855 local 400, or send an e-mail to hass_vocations@yahoo.com.

"The seminary is at the San Carlos Pastoral Formation Complex along Edsa in Guadalupe, Makati City. Since its founding in 1985, 52 priests have been ordained nationwide. Indeed, it is never too late to serve the Lord!"

GEMMA di Giorgi in her First Communion dress. She was healed after her Confession and First Communion.

St. Joseph in Aritao

The 4-ft image of St. Joseph donated by a reader of this column will be enthroned at the St. Joseph Parish in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya today with Fr. Marie Flores, parish priest, as celebrant. The Lord be praised that there are still kind people who wish to help and made this possible.

Health service

For the past 20 years, the Rotary Club of Pasay Silangan has brought health services to the poor and underprivileged. It has conducted anti-dengue and drug abuse prevention information campaign, livelihood programs, day care construction, feeding and deworming, and immunization.

RCPS, headed by president Marcus Antonius Andaya, will launch on Feb. 10 at the Manila Hotel Centennial Hall the "Rotary International District 3810: Health Services through Rotary." The RCPS will also host the grand doctor's night.

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BUY → Bumili ng mga produktong may Buy N Text logo, o di kaya ay bumili sa mga participating retail establishments. Ang kumpletong shopping list ay makikita sa mga leaflets at posters o pwedeng i-text ang LIST at i-send sa **399** (Smart / Talk 'N Text). Successful message sent costs P2.50.

TEXT → Hanapin at i-text ang BNT code sa **399** (Smart/Talk 'N Text) para makasali. Bawat successful message sent costs P2.50. Para sa mga first-time texters, i-text ang REG, BNT code at ang inyong complete name, sex, complete address at birthdate. Sundin ang format sa baba:

REG <BNTcode> <COMPLETE NAME> <SEX> <COMPLETE ADDRESS> <BIRTHDATE>

Sample: REG AABB123456789 Tom G. Cruz Male 14 Apolinario St. Brgy. Salcedo Makati City October 11, 1968

Itago ang mga product wrapper na may BNT sticker, product pack na may BNT code, BNT coupon na ibinigay ng mga participating retail establishments o ang parte ng baso na ibinigay ng mga participating ISD-JDP accounts na may BNT code para sa validation process kung sakaling mabunot ang iyong pangalan.

Kapag hindi naipakita ang mga ito ay madi-disqualify ang entry.

YOU CAN WIN!

May tsansa kang maging isa sa tatlong milyonaryo tuwing Lunes, Miyerkules at Biyernes simula February 17 hanggang May 12!

Para sa karagdagang tanong o mga complaints, tumawag lang sa mga hotlines na ito:

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- (02) 637-4647
- (02) 636-2906
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- Bacolod (034) 707-6776
- Batangas (043) 757-2039
- Butuan (085) 342-3656
- Cagayan de Oro (088) 858-6112
- Cavite (046) 515-0194
- Cebu (032) 412-9215
- Davao (082) 227-3936
- General Santos (083) 381-0204
- Iloilo (033) 336-6054
- Isabela (078) 682-6795
- Laguna (049) 562-1574
- Legaspi (052) 820-0608
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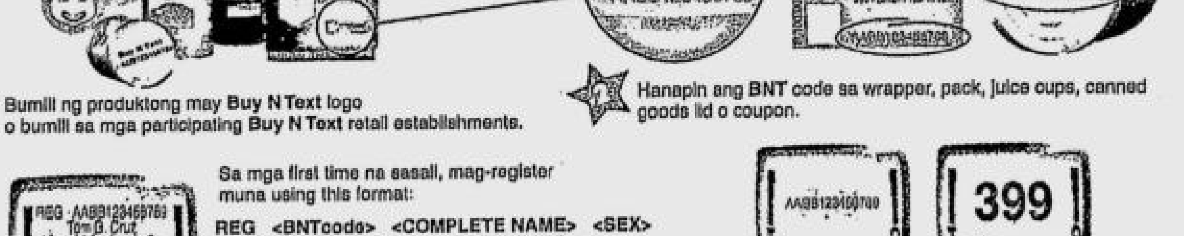
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Bumili ng produktong may **Buy N Text** logo o bumili sa mga participating **Buy N Text** retail establishments.

Hanapin ang **BNT** code sa wrapper, pack, juice cups, canned goods lid o coupon.

Sa mga first time na sasali, mag-register muna using this format:

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Sa mga susunod sa pagsali, i-text na lang ang BNT code sa 399 sa Smart / Talk 'N Text

Promo period is from January 22, 2003 to May 11, 2003. See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2457 series of 2002

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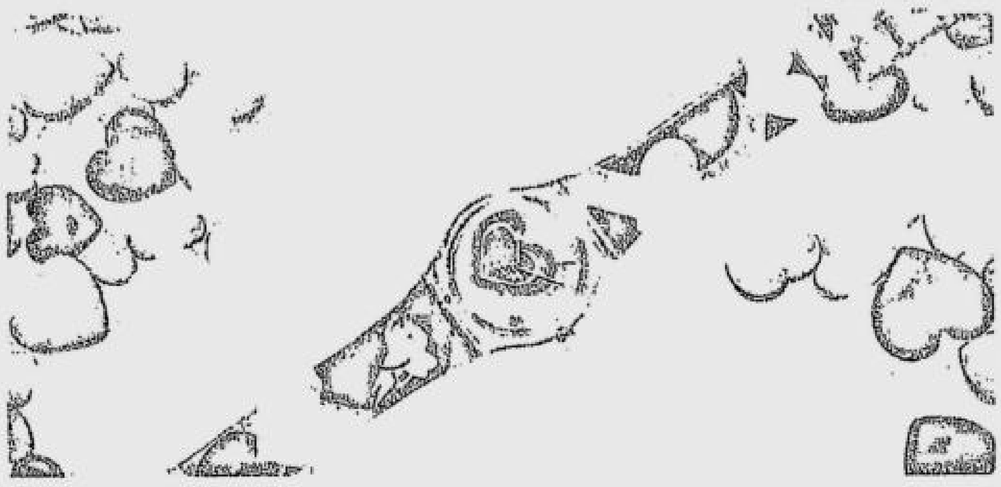
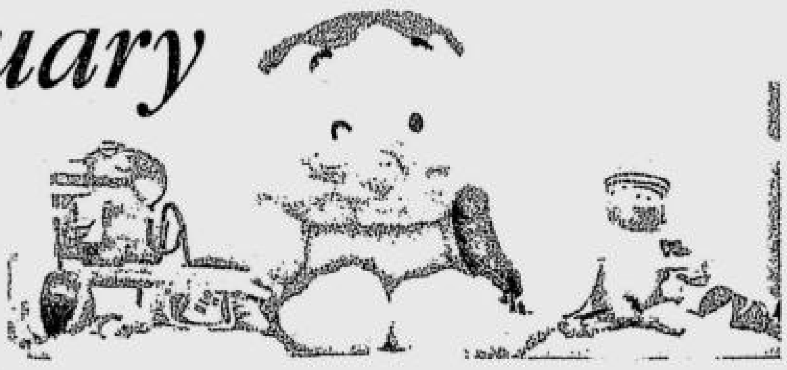
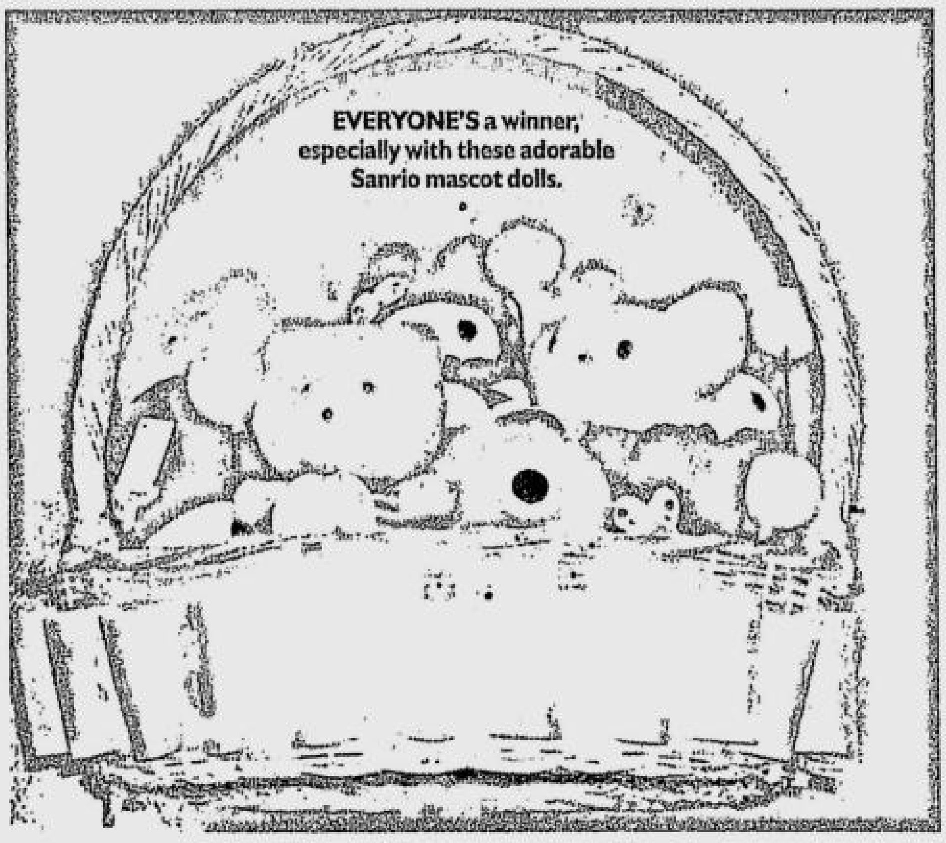
• Baking Soda	- Queen Baking Soda
• Breading	- Crispy Mix
• Catsup	- UFC Tamis-Anghang Banana Catsup - UFC Tomato Ketchup
• Chili Sauce	- UFC Sweet Chili Sauce
• Cornstarch	- Queen Cornstarch
• Corned Beef	- Purefoods Corned Beef
• Fish Sauce	- Datu Puti Patis
• Flour	- Purefoods Flour
• Gelatin	- Queen Gulaman
• Gourmet Coffee	- Caffe Flores Gourmet Coffee
• Hotcake Mix	- Queen Hotcake Mix
• Hotdog	- Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog
• Hot Sauce	- UFC Hot Sauce
• Iodized Salt	- Marco Polo Iodized Salt
• Luncheon Meat	- Purefoods Chinese Luncheon Meat
• Oatmeal	- Golden Oats
• Starch	- Queen Cassava Starch (Tapioca)
• Soy Sauce	- Datu Puti Soy Sauce
• Spaghetti Sauce	- UFC 2 in 1 Spaghetti Sauce
• Tomato Sauce	- UFC 2 in 1 Tomato Sauce
• Vinegar	- Datu Puti Vinegar
Non-Foods	
• Bath Soap	- Zest
• Bathroom Tissue	- Joy - Ace - Kleenex
• Cotton	- Purity
• Diaper	- Huggies Dri-Fit - Huggies Dry Comfort - Kimbies Plus
• Facial Tissue	- Kleenex
• Feminine Napkin	- Kotex Newtex Pads - Kotex White Pads - Kotex Fresh Pantiliners
• Paper Napkin	- Empress - Kleenex Party Napkin
• Powder Detergent	- Ariel
• Roll Towel	- Kleenex Roll Towel
• Shampoo	- Rejoice Rich - Rejoice Complete
Retail	
• Bakery Products	- participating bakeries / bakeshops
• Beverage (Dispenser)	- Institutional Sales Division – Juice Dispensing Program (ISD-JDP)
• Consumer Goods Retailer	- Consumer Incentives Inc.
• Salon	- David's Salon



WRAP your wrist in the colors of Valentine with Cupid swirling in a sea of hearts with Swatch Aiming for Your Heart.

WHO knows what your luck may bring... a Sanrio mascot doll or collectible Russ figurines?





EVERYONE'S a winner, especially with these adorable Sanrio mascot dolls.

Lucky *February* for shoppers

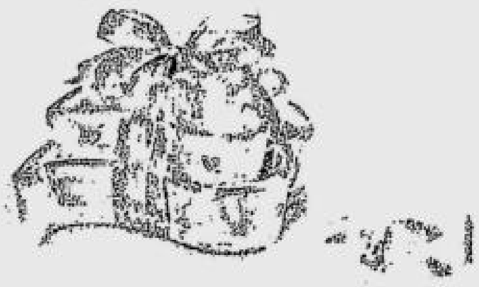
GIFT Gate's "Lucky Draw" promo for the whole month of February offers prizes to 2,000 lucky winners..

Surprise your sister with a cute and huggable Russ bear, bring a smile to a friend with a Hello Kitty bag, give your brother a new Benetton shirt or treat your dad to a new Swatch watch. Just a minimum P500 purchase at Gift Gate Gallery Glorietta 2, Swatch Stores and Kiosk at Glorietta 4 or Benetton Boutique at Glorietta 3, entitles you to take a lucky draw and win a prize.

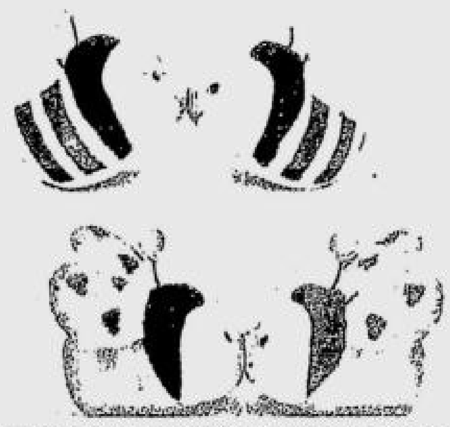
Other prizes include a Lego basic set, a Sanrio doll, a Swatch watch, a Benetton bag, a Russ collectible, and many others.

Drop in at the Lucky Draw Corner at Gift Gate Gallery.

IT'S a sea of lucky hearts for Swatch Lady Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski as she revs up for Gift Gate's month-long overload of prizes in the Lucky Draw Promo.



LET the scent of love fill the air with these heart-shaped scented candle gift set from Russ.



AT A LOSS for words? These pullstring plush bees and bugs (P295 each) can say it for you as they move toward each other and say "I love you" when pulled apart.

Double treat

TWO shows await Highlands members on Saturday, Feb. 15.

At 5 p.m., Midlands Veranda presents "Twilight at the Midlands," an afternoon of classical music. It will showcase celebrated musicians Oscar Yatco (violin), Nena Villanueva (piano) and Geronimo Velasco (cello).

At 9 p.m., the Summer Garden of the Highlands China Palace features "RJ Rocks the Highlands." Relive the fun and rock-and-roll of the 1960s with RJ and Friends.

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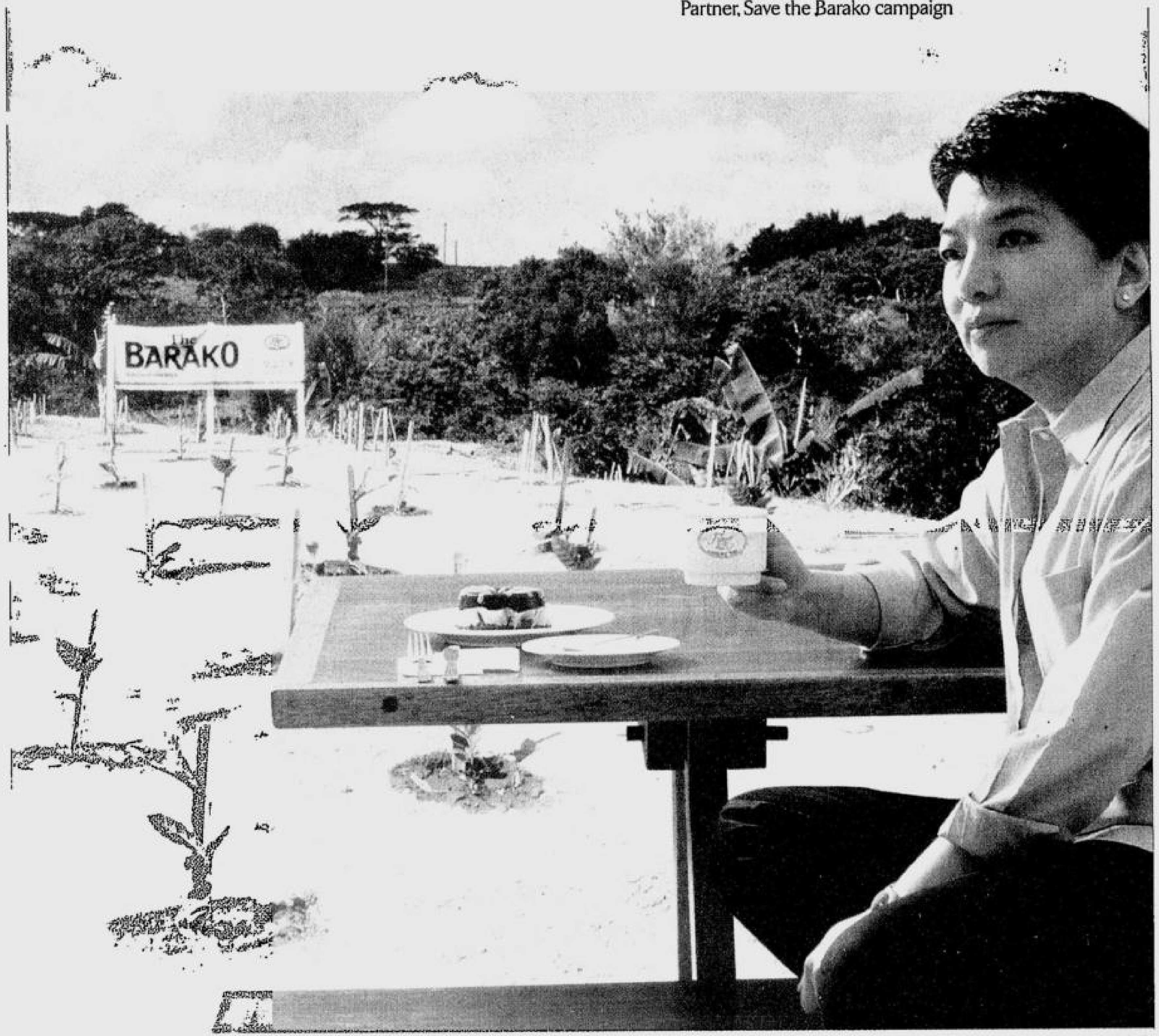

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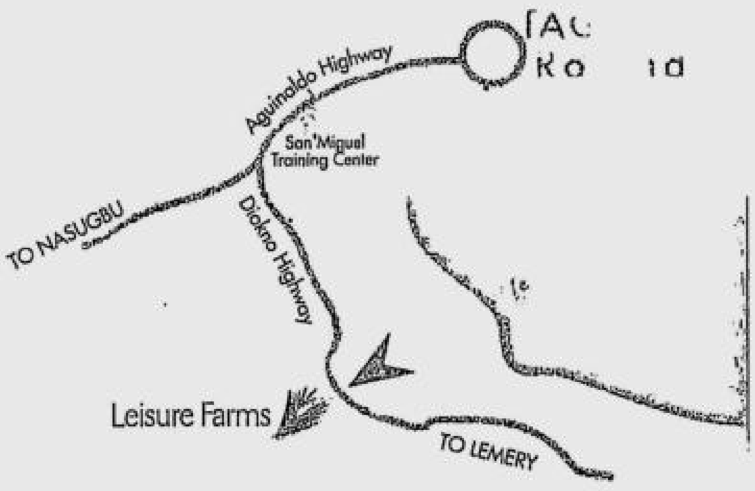

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An exuberant lunch with Cory Aquino

From page C1

cent hospitalizations, there was laughter because we were imagining how these 1986 activists would fare when summoned today for protest rallies and marches.

There was little talk of politics but lots of women talk about each other's lives.

Close Cory friends Bea Zobel (enjoying the bread of the house in lovely bread baskets kept warm by cheerful napkins that prompted her to mumble, "There should be more bread and less napkins") and Mercy Tuason were schoolgirl giggly over reminiscences of their 40-day trip with President Cory right after her term ended in 1992. They recalled forever "claiming" to be members of the Aquino family and this allowed them an audience with Sister Lucia of Fatima—and 50-percent discounts at the Bally store, besides.

BEA Zobel

Aquino said they were purchasing so much that she herself could not think of buying anything for herself. Bea and Mercy were traveling with her to be of assistance to her, but she ended up waking them up in the mornings.

Youthful

But it is no surprise that it is President Cory's stories that were refreshing and had every one listening intently.

The Paris leg of that trip to Europe she liked to remember because of her off-the-record interview with the foreign policy staff in an all-men enclave. The questions went on and on, and tapered off only when she requested to please be given some time to enjoy the French cuisine. How she shocked her grandsons by merely politely acknowledging a Filipina salesgirl at Wal-Mart who asked her, "Has anyone told you that you look like Cory Aquino?" She later explained to them that she did not really mean to lie, just wanted neither fuss nor endless photo sessions.

Just the other day, she had spent the day with Joshua, her daughter Kris' son. The boy craved for tempura at mid-afternoon so she had to convince him it was too early for dinner. He of the hearty appetite settled for the nearest McDonald's drive-through. Another time he was at home with her, she tried to teach him to sound out some words and, like most school kids who have more faith in their teachers, he sighed out loud with a hint of disapproval that his Lola was not doing it right.

President Cory is a youthful-looking 70. At her Jan. 25 birthday Mass at the Convent of the Pink Sisters, Fr. Catalino Arevalo, SJ, recounted how he and some priests were debating on whether it was her 60th or her 65th? The priests warned him to clarify that before he dared make any public statements on the matter.

Her equanimity and inner peace which, unfortunately, no photographs can capture, are special gifts she considers herself blessed with. And how can a life anchored on prayer be otherwise? A must ritual for her is spending time at the end of the day in quiet reflection on how the day has gone and what the next day would look like, knowing how much there remains to be done.

While she could choose to go on living a privileged life, attending to chosen public speaking engagements, regular painting sessions on her own and no longer with a teacher, and the writing of her memoirs eagerly awaited by everyone, she remains very concerned about her dreams for the country.

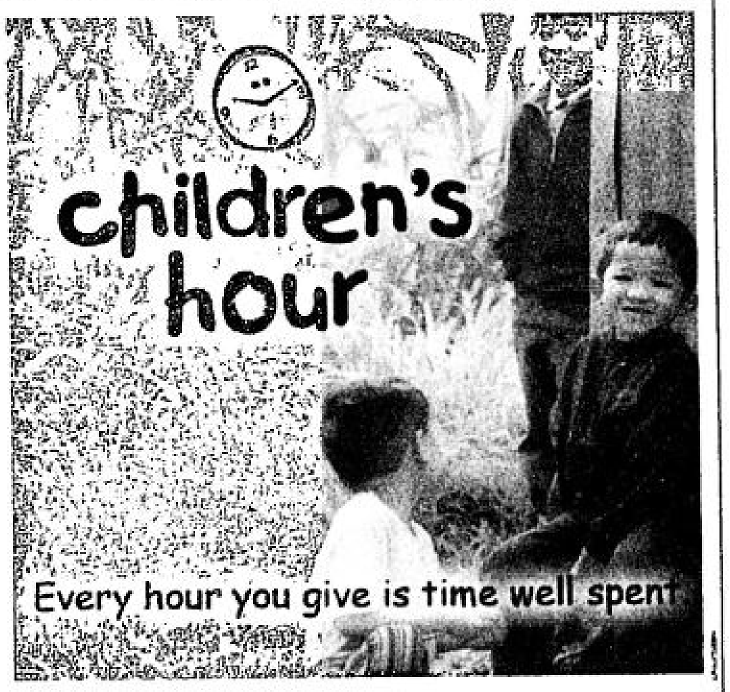
Right now, 20 years after Ninoy's death, she is planning an Aug. 21 celebration that will be free of politics and will focus on restoring pride in being a Filipino. And going beyond mere rhetoric, she would like to replicate success projects of NGOs in provinces that have truly made a difference in the lives of the average Filipino.

No wonder Ninoy has now come to be known as the husband of Cory Aquino, but President Cory herself is not buying that.

E-mail the author at nenisrc@hotmail.com

ANNA Sobrepena and Madeleine Lim

CB Garrucho and Della Paderanga


children's hour
Every hour you give is time well spent

Valentine is also for children

WHO says Valentine's Day is for lovers only? Children likewise deserve to be part of the celebration of the hearts. In fact, the Children's Hour is using this opportunity to get additional funding to support its children and youth causes.

Children's Hour is a global fundraising campaign that calls on individuals and companies to donate one hour's worth of their earnings for programs dedicated to children and youth. It was launched in the country in 1999 and again this year to champion the cause for millions of Filipino children in need.

To date, Children's Hour in the Philippines has raised about P40 million from donations given by companies, employees, and private individuals. The fund is invested in carefully selected projects addressing child abuse and deprivation, as well as health care and education programs.

On Valentine's weekend, several restaurants have generously agreed to donate part of their proceeds for the benefit of Children's Hour. Milkyway Cafe will give 20 percent of its sales to the cause. About five percent of the sales of Cork Wine Cellar and Grill (Rockwell and ABS-CBN), Magnum Wine Cellar and Grill (Greenbelt), Beluga Bistro and Pravda Wine Bar will also be given to the Children's Hour.

From Feb. 5 to Feb. 15, Burgoo (all branches) will pledge a percentage of its sales to the cause, as well as Cibo (all branches), Cafe Bola (Araneta Center), Mangan (all branches), Kitchen (all branches), Ebun (Greenbelt), Figaro (Powerplant Mall, Rockwell) and Cafe Havana (Greenbelt).

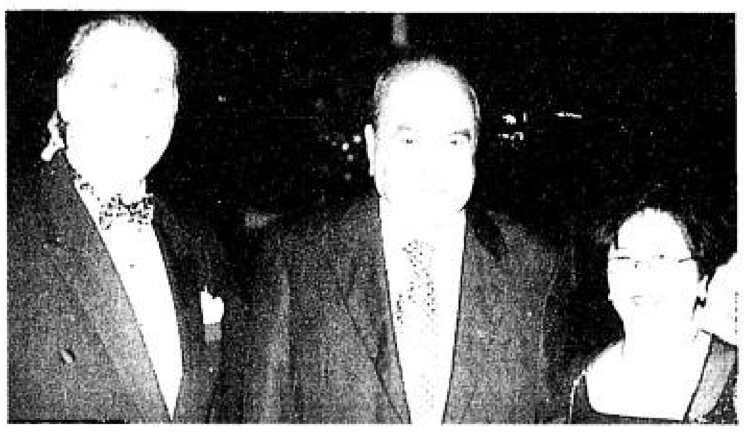
For inquiries on how you can help Children's Hour, call 8945620, 8941663, fax 8134487 or e-mail childrenshour@ayala.com.ph. Visit its website at www.childrenshour.tk.

OLGA Martel and Mellie Hechanova

THE PHILIPPINE Ballet Theater with Maritoni Rufino-Tordesillas (left)

AUSTRIAN Ambassador Christian Krepela, Minnie Jentes, Letty Syquia, Vina Gaisberger

IRMGARD Krepela


MANDARIN Oriental Manila GM Helmut Gaisberger and Foreign Affairs Sec. Blas and Susan Ople

BEN Farrales

DR. Mita Pardo de Tavera

PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva and wife Ulrike

FINANCE Secretary Lito and Kim Camacho

Viennese Opera Ball in Manila rivals original Austrian gala

A night at the opera ball

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

THE VIENNESE Opera Ball, a grand European tradition, was brought to Manila by the Johann Strauss Society in cooperation with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Swiss International Airlines and the Mandarin Oriental Manila. Held at the imposing new Le Pavillion at the Metropolitan Park in Roxas Boulevard, this year's ball rivaled the elegance of the original Austrian affair.

The collaboration of Filipino and Austrian artists welded magically in an exquisite evening of music and dance that raised funds for the hospice care of the indigent cancer patients of Alay sa Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan (Akap) headed by former Social Welfare Secretary Mita Pardo de Tavera.

The affair, hosted by the dapper Johnny Litton, celebrated the immortal music of Austria's master composers, as flawlessly performed by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Austrian conductor Ernest Hotzl. Homegrown opera talents Agnes Barredo and Frankie Asiniero Jr. enhanced the musical magic with their interpretations of beloved arias from the operettas "Fledermaus" and "Marry Widow," while the Philippine Ballet Theater with soloist Maritoni Rufino-Tordesillas contributed enchanting divertissements.

Centerpiece of the event was the presentation of this year's debutantes. Five of them—Kimberly Baradi, Ileana Garcia, Amanda Sandoval, Dianne Sison and Melissa Varela—opened the program with a grand waltz choreographed by Gener Caringal. Then the new batch made their grand entrance led by Austrian dance master Siegfried Schellander. Resplendent in billowy white ball gowns and sparkling tiaras, and escorted by blushing young gentlemen in tuxedos, they captivated the audience with their grace and beauty.

The debutantes were Samantha Ayson, Juna Rebekah Cadungog, Ma. Victoria Corpus, Paula Garcia, Deborah How, Marie Claire Lambino, Haidee Lee, Regina Lejano, Jacqueline Michelle Lim, Nicole Ong Muller, Sabrina Gretchen Salgado, Tania Margaret Tuason Tan, Krista Victorio and Jacqueline Yang.

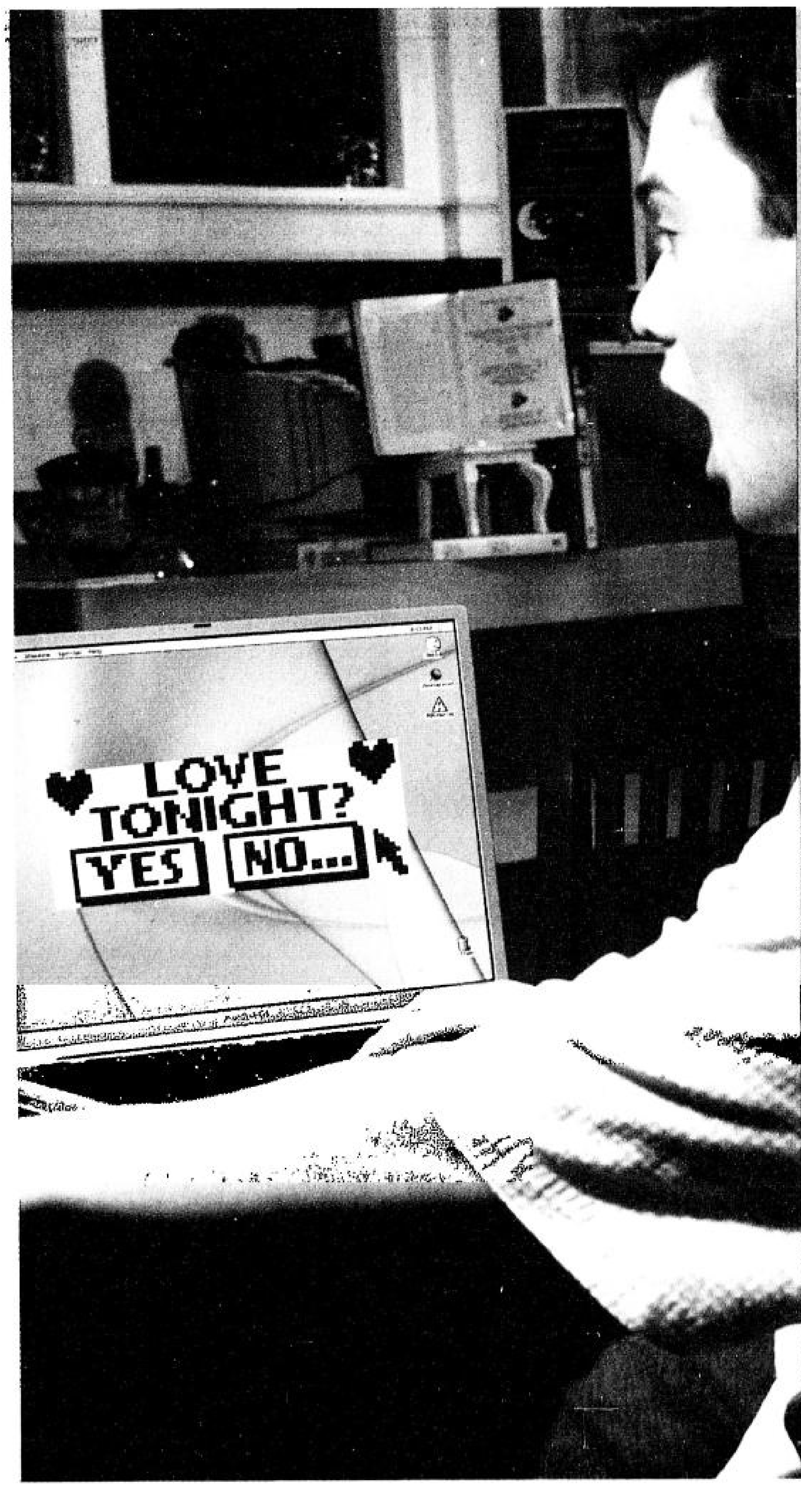
Milestone

Austrian Ambassador Christian Krepela hailed the affair as a milestone in Austrian-Philippine cultural ties. "Tonight's event captures the magnificence and grandeur of a Viennese Opera Ball through a vibrant display of traditional Austrian music and dance," he said to the black-tie audience of fellow diplomats, politicians, high society luminaries and business and civic leaders.

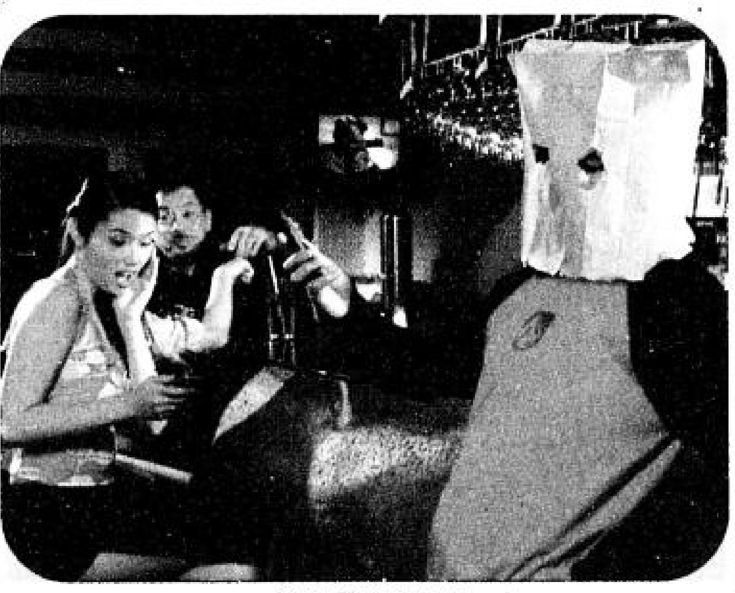
This year's ball surpassed all other Viennese Opera Balls of recent memory in all aspects. The musical performances were enthralling, the pacing was fast and fluid, the food (from Mandarin Oriental) was splendid and the turnout was A-list. Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople and his gracious lady Susan led the dignitaries that included Finance Secretary Lito Camacho and Kim Camacho (beaming as they watched their son Lorenzo waltzing with one of the debs), Dr. Jimmy Laya, PPO's Zenas Lozada, Unilever boss Hubert Belton and his wife Christina, Metrobank Foundation's Chito and Ana Sobrepeña, Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando, Philippine Chamber of Commerce president Miguel Varela, Norma Baja, and a covey of top-ranked foreign diplomats.

Letty Syquia, wife of Ambassador Enrique Syquia of the Sovereign Order of Malta and the ball's indefatigable chair, arrived at Le Pavillion as early as 4 p.m. to oversee the set-up and attend to last-minute details. Her working committee composed of Mellie Ablaza, Alice Guerrero, Mariet Guanzon-Holmgren, Helen Ong, Chit Gohu, Ana Sobrepeña and Fortune Ledesma, labored just as hard to make the event the definitive social event of the season. But much of the credit must be given to Helmut Gaisberger, Mandarin Oriental Manila's general manager who, as far back as the mid-'80s, initiated the holding of the Vienna Opera Ball in Manila.

Keep on waltzing, ladies and gentlemen.



Valentones
A Thousand Miles *Vanessa Carlton* **TONE THOUSAND** • Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw *Regine Velasquez* **TONE KAILANGAN2**
Be My Lady *Martin Nievera* **TONE BMYLADY** • I'm With You *Avril Lavigne* **TONE IMWITHU**
Harana *Parokya Ni Edgar* **TONE HARANA** • I Will Be Here *Gary Valenciano* **TONE IWILLBE**
Pagdating Ng Panahon *Aiza Seguerra* **TONE PAGDATING** • Iris *Googoo Dolls* **TONE IRIS**
It Might Be You *Stephen Bishop* **TONE MYTBU** • Fallin *Alicia Keys* **TONE FALLIN**
Build Me Up, Buttercup *Sound Alike* **TONE BUTTERCUP** • Next In Line *Afterimage* **TONE NXTINLINE**
Dilemma *Nelly* **TONE DILEMMA** • Your Body Is A Wonderland *John Mayer* **TONE URBODY**
Spiderman *Movie Theme* **TONE SPIDERMAN** • Kahit Kailan *South Border* **TONE KAHITKLAN**
Ain't It Funny *Jennifer Lopez* **TONE AINTITFUN** • Forevermore *Side A* **TONE 4EVERMORE**
What Can I Do *The Corrs* **TONE WATCANIDO** • Tell Me *Side A* **TONE TELLME**



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SMART
Simply Amazing!

TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

Grandly LONDON

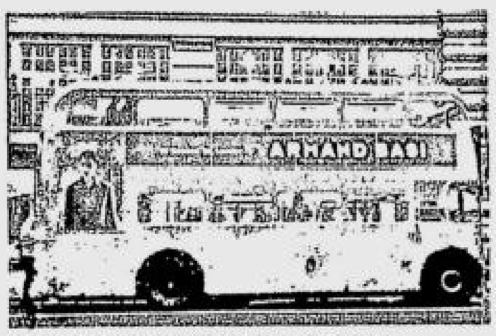
HARROD'S, the "Notre Dame of department stores"

Text and photos by Patrick C. Kimpo

THE HOTEL lobby seemed like a sauna. So did the room where, sans air-conditioning, the windows had to be opened a bit to let cool air in.

The tiny bathroom was devoid of foot towels. The carpet was stained and worn-out. The TV set did not work and the key cards failed. At night, a cacophony of sleep-rousing noises—loud singing from pubs lining a side street, drunks shouting and cursing from an alley, screeching cars, whining police sirens—went on until 3 a.m.

Finally, there was stillness in the dark. But two hours later, a garbage truck revved up its engine, blew its horn and collected the evening's refuse.



THE UBIQUITOUS double-deck bus

Am I complaining? Not at all. Why should I? It was the moments out of the hotel that proved most thrilling. We were in Piccadilly Circus, the heart and soul of England's largest city, London.

We touched down at Heathrow Airport on a cold, wet Saturday morning, and I was immediately given a glimpse of the weather to expect during our brief stay.

The mood seemed gloomy as we left the terminal and took the express train to Paddington Station, then the familiar black London cab to the hotel. Along the way, the streets were deserted.

But on second thought, it was a Saturday and still early. Most of the Londoners must have had a raucous Friday night lasting until the wee hours, carousing at the pubs or simply watching the night wither away from the foot of the statue of Eros in Piccadilly Circus.

I was the youngest in a small group composed of my untiring mom, three stamina-driven aunts, an uncle and myself. I was the designated guide, map reader, direction finder, day planner, ticket buyer, photographer, and travel chronicler all rolled into one. No vehement objections from me. I had to accord the elders, all gifted with a great sense of humor, my utmost respect.

Exploring London is a breeze thanks mainly to The Big Bus Company. We found that to go about the city, planning was no longer necessary. You look for the nearest bus stop displaying the Big Bus logo and wait for a few minutes. Depending on the sights you wish to see, take the red, blue or green route designated for each bus. Hop on and then hop off.

It was a daily routine for us.

We felt the effects of a 17-hour flight, but why would we bother to catch up on sleep when the sights of London lunged right at us and kept us fully awake? Besides, the weather improved and the air remained cool.

Quite favorably, we traversed on foot the entire length of Horse Guards from Whitehall (ignoring the unmistakable smell of droppings from the thoroughbreds maintained by the Royal Guards) toward St. James's Park and ended up at Buckingham Palace. Too bad: The palace's most famous spectacle, the changing of the guard, takes place every other day and begins just before noon. Another reason to return the next day.

Sometimes the unexpected happens just when you least expect it. When time is of the essence, much of it can be wasted.

We took a bus after getting a view of the Big Ben from the South Bank Lion at the eastern edge of Westminster Bridge and setting foot on London Bridge, but suddenly it stalled in front of the London Dungeon on our way to St. Paul's Cathedral. Ten, 20, 30 minutes of waiting passed.

Finally, after an hour wasted, a replacement bus came to take us to the cathedral made famous in September 1981 when Prince Charles wed the late Princess, the then Lady Diana Spencer. We had to dash to the entrance to get a glimpse of its interior and then take photographs on the steps outside before catching another ride to make it in time for Buckingham's greatest noontime show.

Alighting at the corner of Buckingham Gate, we heard the Royal Guard band playing. We were not able to name the tune as we had to slowly inch, and in some instances, elbow, our way among the multitude who had gathered to witness the finest example of military pageantry. Finally, we found a space right in front of the high wrought-iron fence—an excellent location to watch the new guard, coming from either Wellington or Chelsea Barracks, marching behind a band and taking over from the old guard at the palace's forecourt (pebbled, maroon-colored).

We arrived late, almost halfway into the ceremony, but managed to hear the familiar James Bond theme being played.

Caucasians dominated the Queen Victoria Memorial from where the ceremony can be witnessed, but it was understandable because mostly European tourists made up the gathering. It was different in other parts of the city.

London's topography may have undergone few changes over its long and rich history, but its human landscape is

GRANDLY/ C7

> Why would we bother to catch up on sleep when the city's sights—alternately lush, ornate and ancient but always thrilling—lunged at us and kept us fully awake?

POMP and circumstance at the Buckingham Palace

TRAVELBRIEFS

More Valentine treats

UNTIL Feb. 12, guests of the Seven Suites Hotel-Observatory in Antipolo can enjoy a free dinner for two with an overnight stay and breakfast for the promo rate of P2,695.

The Valentine weekend of Feb. 13-15 heats up with the "Sweet Getaway Package," which covers accommodations, candlelit full-course dinner and wine at the veranda, aromatherapy massage for two, plus use of the swimming pool and roof deck facilities for P5,000. A cinema room will be open on these three days for guests to enjoy popular romance dramas and comedies.

Guests who choose to dine in during the Valentine weekend can also enjoy the great view from the veranda. For P650+ per person, you can enjoy a full-course dinner, live music, a Valentine gift and a souvenir photo of that special night. The in-house astronomer will be on hand to tell guests a little more about the starlit skyscape with the help of the hotel's powerful telescope.

For inquiries, call 240-5093, 677-5401 to 02 or (0920) 727-5670.

* * *

"Cordillera Valentine" is the theme of Causeway Tours' offering for Feb. 14-16.

It is literally a tour in the clouds that includes the Banaue Rice Terraces of Ifugao, the museum of Igorot culture in Bontoc, beautiful Sagada with its centuries-old burial caves, and the splendor of pine-covered Mount Data.

The package covers transport and accommodations, daily breakfasts and the services of a guide.

For inquiries, call 851-7294 or (0916) 396-3963.

* * *

On Feb. 13-15, you can treat your special someone to a Traders Club room at the Traders Hotel for P3,000++, which comes with cocktails complete with a breathtaking view of Manila Bay's famous sunset.

In addition, Traders Club guests are entitled to these privileges: all-day access to the Lounge, complimentary daily continental breakfast, all-day refreshments, free pressing of one suit or dress on day of arrival, free local telephone calls, and free use of boardroom with a maximum duration of two hours per day, subject to availability.

Deluxe and superior rooms are also offered at P2,000++ and P1,600++, respectively. Requests for bay-view rooms are subject to space availability.

On Feb. 14, you can enjoy the special "Sunset Dinner" with music by a string trio at the Traders Club Lounge on the 19th level at P888++ per person.

For reservations or further inquiries, call 523-70-11 local 2907.

Vacation Club

CANYON Woods Residential Resort in Laurel, Batangas, announces the opening of its Vacation Club, a holiday ownership program that allows members and their families a week's accommodations every year in the 5-star complex located in the heart of the resort.

The first phase of the project is the construction of an initial 24 world-class vacation homes with one or two bedrooms. Tower A will be accessible through a podium/lobby that will be at the same level as the resort club's area.

Vacation Club has become the newest affiliate of Interval International, one of the most prestigious vacation exchange companies in the world. Its members may exchange their vacations in Canyon Woods for accommodations in over 2,000 resorts all over the world, including the Disney Hotels and Marriott resort chain.

Reservation forms are available at Canyon Woods Granda International Vacation Club, 1226 Apacible Street, Paco, Manila, or at the resort's Batangas office.

MARVEL in the sky: rice terraces in Ifugao

Grandly, London

From page C6

quite surprising. A typical Londoner may no longer be in a suit but in a *sari*, a turban, or, who knows, in the near future, a *barong Tagalog*. I heard more foreign tongues than the ubiquitous stiff-upper-lip British accent, except during the three hours of songs and dialogue (where some lines are even hardly discernible) between and among Professor Higgins, Eliza Doolittle, Colonel Pickering, Mrs. Pierce, and the rest of the cast in a matinee show of "My Fair Lady" at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in the famous West End.

I saw, and on a number of occasions, met a Polish receptionist, a German hotel staff member, a Spanish waitress, a Thai hair stylist, an African policewoman, an Indo-Chinese bus driver—and heard "*Salamat sa iyo* (Thank you)" and "*Magandang gabi* (Good evening)" from an Indian postal clerk when I mailed postcards to Manila.

Indeed, London is shaping itself to be the world's greatest cosmopolitan city.

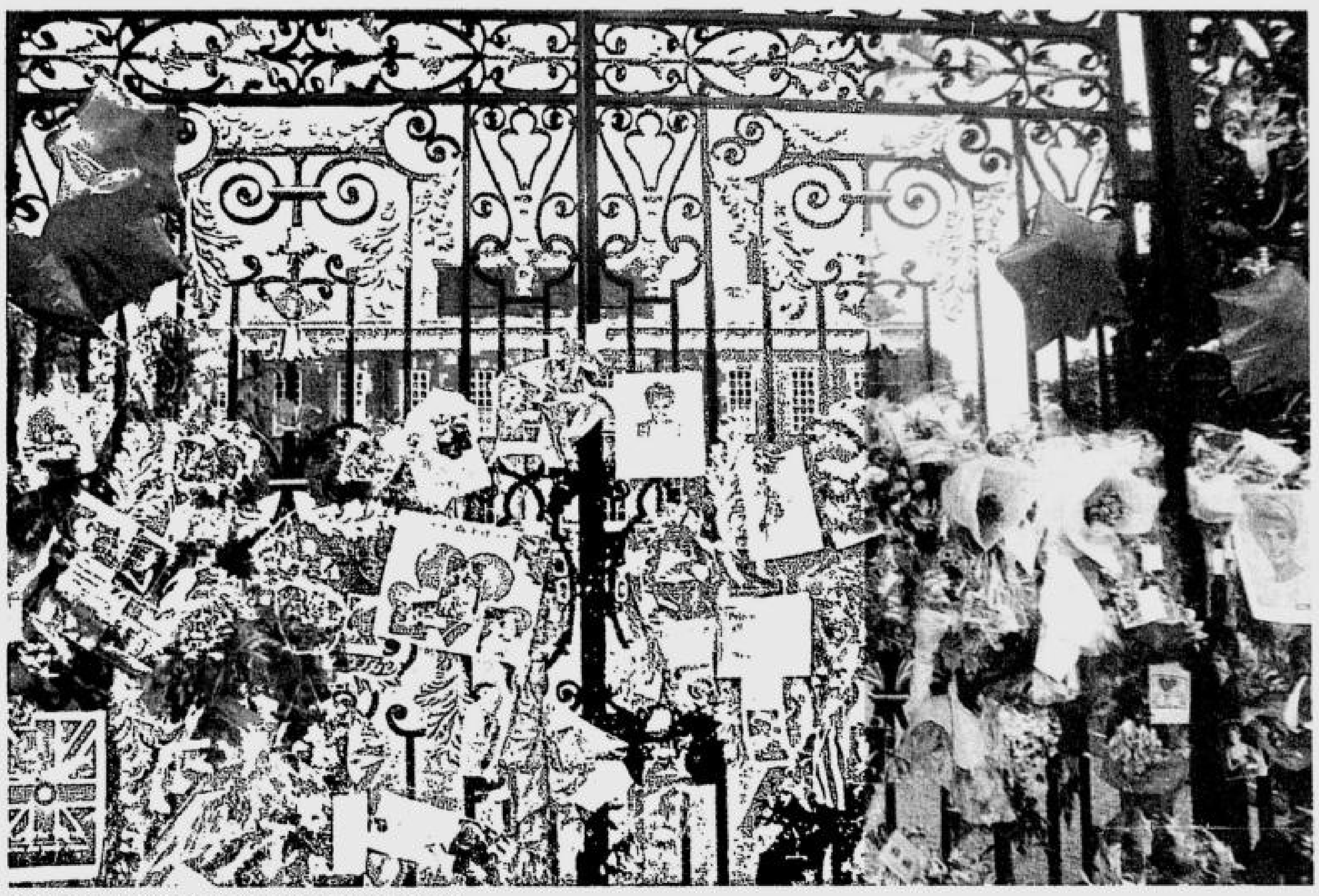
And Filipinos? We met three—a waiter, a manager and a chef—while answering the call of hunger pangs. Working together in one of 16 London outlets of Garfunkel's Restaurant-Coffee Shop, they accorded us utmost hospitality and served us a dish we already wished for just on the second day of our visit: chicken *adobo* with rice, served with a vegetable salad with Thousand Island dressing.

"It's only five pounds each," Marte de Leon, the chef, whispered to us after consulting the manager. "You see, it's not on the menu and we are serving it especially for you."

We were very thankful for the gesture, but *adobo* for the equivalent of P400 per person? It was the only dining luxury we were able to afford. Even a tempting afternoon tea (a very British custom) in one of the small restaurants and outdoor cafés along the stretch of Leicester Square to Covent Garden failed to entice us. It would have been a good experience, though.

With our self-imposed frugality, a gastronomic experience was far from our minds. "Frugal" is perhaps the appropriate adjective to describe six people converting the cost of every meal from the British pound to the Philippine peso. Add "pragmatic" if one counts the number of occasions we discreetly prepared sandwiches out of bread taken from the hotel's breakfast buffet, for our consumption later in the day.

The city has about 6,000 restaurants. Despite the variety in cuisine, we never really savored a typical English meal. After the Filipino meal, it was Thai food (cheaper "taken away" than dine-in) that we ordered at a restaurant during a Sunday stroll along Brompton Road, which is walking distance from Harrod's.



STILL grieving for Diana, the "people's princess"

NIGHT scene at Piccadilly Circus

Harrod's, known as "the Notre Dame of department stores," is London's largest and most renowned. Fortunately for us, it is closed on Sundays, or we would have succumbed to the more expensive temptation posed by shopping.

While our stomachs never had their hearty fill, it was our eyes that feasted the most. The sight of lush greenery in virtually almost every part of the city was more than pleasing. A walk in the park provided momentary solitude, and one could even forget the city's existence.

The parks vary in size—from the expansive Hyde Park adjoining Kensington Gardens, Green Park and St. James's Park to the small patches of green in squares scattered around London. Notable among these are those in Leicester Square, Soho, Parliament and Belgrave.

The greens provide an alternative landscape to the monotony of monuments and centuries-old buildings, themselves architectural treasures, most of which survived bombardment during World War II and are testaments to the grandeur of the past and the present.

But what better way to experience what London has to offer than to marvel at the very symbol of royalty, the Crown Jewels? Stored and exhibited in The Tower of London, the imposing fortress by the Thames, the Crown Jewels and other regal paraphernalia have been passed on through a succession of monarchies.

The scepters made of gold, finely cut gems sewn on capes, diamonds bigger than strawberries and other rare and expensive stones adorning crowns and tiaras make our famous ex-first lady's collection look like raisins.

To enjoy was the order of each passing day for us. While most moments were thrilling, time spent at Kensington Palace was time to feel loss. The palace was home to the late Diana, the revered "people's princess," until 1997.

Who would not feel the grief displayed by those still in mourning five years after her passing? Bouquets of flowers were still being offered, as were notes and balloons laid on the gate or hung on the wrought-iron fence.

As our stay drew to a close, I realized that the hotel was where we would eventually end up. I still did not complain. After all, I had a good story to share, and I shall consider my visit to London a greatly rewarding experience.

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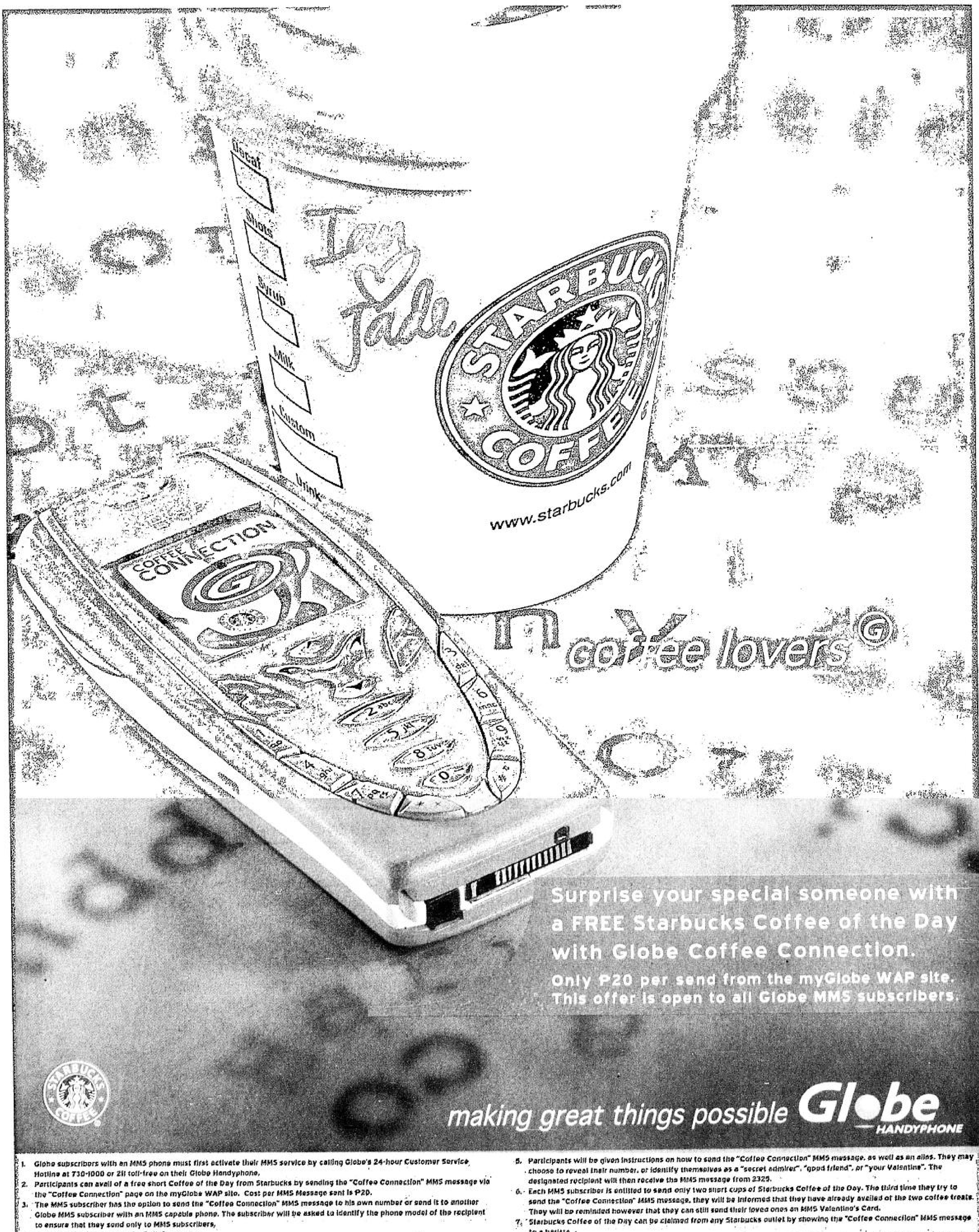
DEBUTANTS ALL. Ivy Corpus, Juna Cadungog, Tania Tan, Izza Lambino, Abby Salgado, Deborah How, Michelle Lim, Nikki Muller, Krista Victorio, Regina Lejano, Paula Garcia, Haidee Lee, Trixie Ayson and Jacqueline Yang

A night at the *opera ball*

Story on page C5



Surprise your special someone with a FREE Starbucks Coffee of the Day with Globe Coffee Connection.

Only P20 per send from the myGlobe WAP site. This offer is open to all Globe MMS subscribers.

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

1. Globe subscribers with an MMS phone must first activate their MMS service by calling Globe's 24-hour Customer Service Hotline at 730-1000 or 211 toll-free on their Globe Handyphone.
2. Participants can avail of a free short Coffee of the Day from Starbucks by sending the "Coffee Connection" MMS message via the "Coffee Connection" page on the myGlobe WAP site. Cost per MMS Message sent is P20.
3. The MMS subscriber has the option to send the "Coffee Connection" MMS message to his own number or send it to another Globe MMS subscriber with an MMS capable phone. The subscriber will be asked to identify the phone model of the recipient to ensure that they send only to MMS subscribers.
4. To send a "Coffee Connection" MMS message:
    a. Go to phone "Menu".
    b. Choose "Services".
    c. Select the myGlobe GPRS link from the available bookmarks.
    d. Choose "Yes" when the "Connection to server needed" message appears.
    e. Click on "Coffee Connection".
5. Participants will be given instructions on how to send the "Coffee Connection" MMS message, as well as an alias. They may choose to reveal their number, or identify themselves as a "secret admirer", "good friend", or "your Valentine". The designated recipient will then receive the MMS message from 2325.
6. Each MMS subscriber is entitled to send only two short cups of Starbucks Coffee of the Day. The third time they try to send the "Coffee Connection" MMS message, they will be informed that they have already availed of the two coffee treats. They will be reminded however that they can still send their loved ones an MMS Valentine's Card.
7. Starbucks Coffee of the Day can be claimed from any Starbucks outlet by showing the "Coffee Connection" MMS message to a barista.
8. The Starbucks barista will erase the MMS message once it is validated. Only MMS messages from 2325 will be honored. The participant who showed the MMS message will then need to sign a receipt with his/her name, mobile number, phone model, and signature for verification purposes. This receipt will be kept by Starbucks.
9. Redemption shall be within sixty (60) days from the end of the promo period.

Duration: February 6-28, 2003

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0219, Series of 2003

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

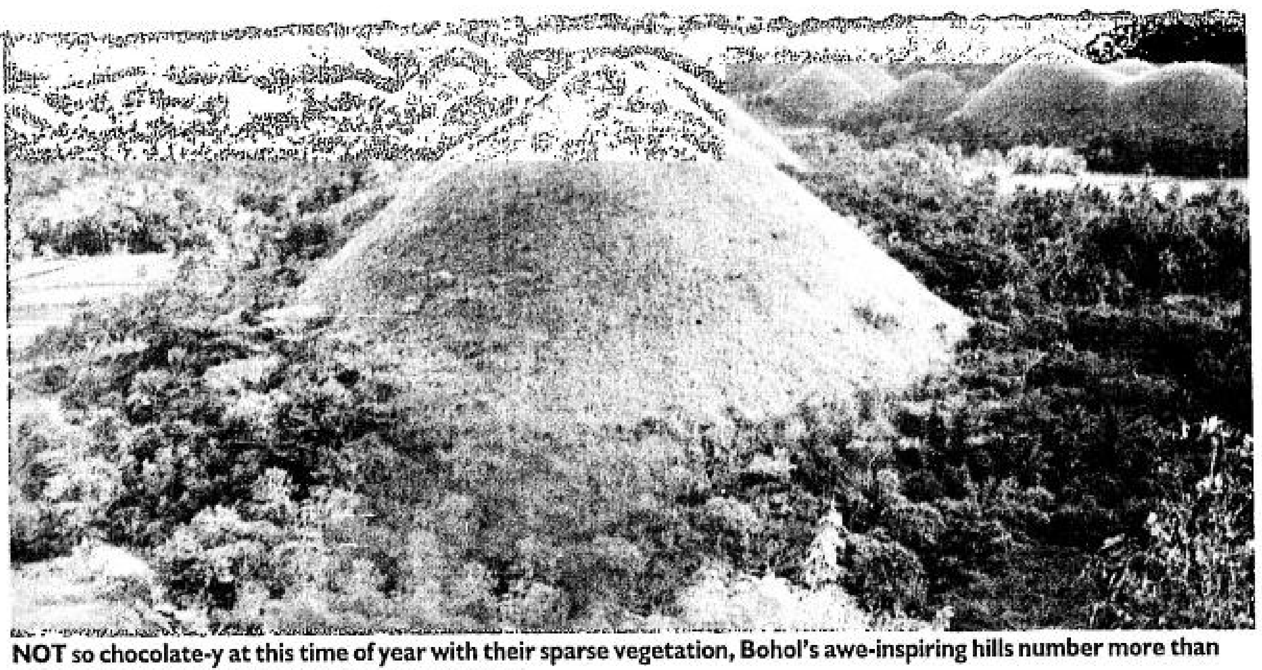
LIFESTYLE GOES TO BOHOL

Sleeping giant awakens

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Joan Bondoc

THE 10TH largest island of the Philippines, Bohol has for many years been largely hidden by the broad shadow cast by neighboring Cebu even though it became an autonomous political unit as early as 1854 and a full-fledged province in 1917.

SLEEPING/ D6



NOT so chocolate-y at this time of year with their sparse vegetation, Bohol's awe-inspiring hills number more than 1,000 and straddle at least three adjacent towns.

head over heels

myGlobe tones&icons

Sweep him off his feet with these Valentine picks!

COLORED WALLPAPER

bugs27 · dumped · ilovemom · orangeluv · slaveluv
smiley6 · luvballoon · smiley8 · taz21 · ughlove

ICONS

bearlove · bunnyluv · daffy35 · fishlove · forever
foryou · hihoney · love3 · love4 · loveless
lovepup · luveyes · marvin41 · marvin42 · marvin43
roadru56 · romantic · slaveluv · ughlove · wildluv2

TEXT CARDS

daffy36 · daffy37 · daffy38 · dolphluv · pepe44
porky30 · tweety49 · ughlove · wile12 · pepe45

TONES

SONG TITLE	KEYWORD	ARTIST
ANGEL OF MINE	angelof	MONICA
BACK AT ONE	backat1	BRIAN McKNIGHT
IS IT OKAY IF I CALL YOU MINE	calumine	PAUL McCRANE
I NEED YOU	ineedyou	LEANNE RHYMES
IT MIGHT BE YOU	mightbu	STEPHEN BISHOP
ONLY HOPE	onlyhope	MANDY MOORE
THANK YOU	thankyou	DIDO
THERE YOU'LL BE	thereyou	FAITH HILL
THIS I PROMISE YOU	thisipro	*NSYNC
I TURN TO YOU	turntoyu	CHRISTINA AGUILERA

To download, send the following to 2375:
For icons, type in L (keyword).
To forward to loved ones, type in L (keyword) (mobile number) (short message)
Ex: L love3 09171234567 i love you

For tones, type in N (keyword).
To forward to loved ones, type in N (keyword) (mobile number) (short message)
Ex: N angelof 09171234567 i love you

For text cards, type in TC (keyword).
To forward to loved ones, type in TC (keyword) (mobile number) (short message)
Ex: TC ughlove 09171234567 i love you

For colored wallpaper, go to the myGlobe WAP page. Choose What's New and click on Valentine Wallpaper. Compatible with MMS phones: Nokia 3530, 6100, 6610 and 7210.

Text PHONES to 2375 for free list of compatible phones.
Icons, tones and text cards rate: ₱15.00
Colored wallpaper rate: ₱20.00

Service provided by:
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making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special PROJECT
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2003

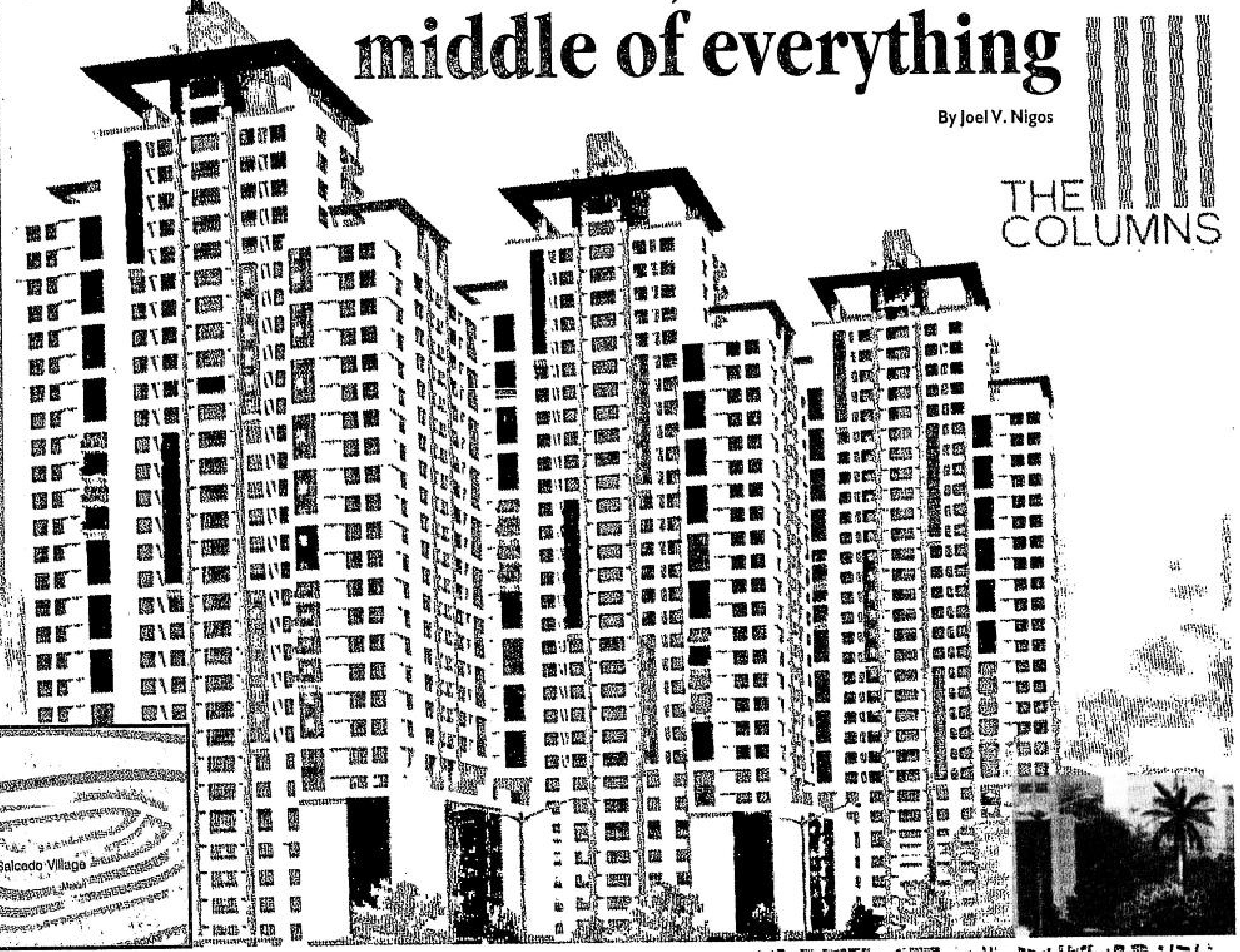
'TOWERS OF POWER'

On top of the world, in the middle of everything

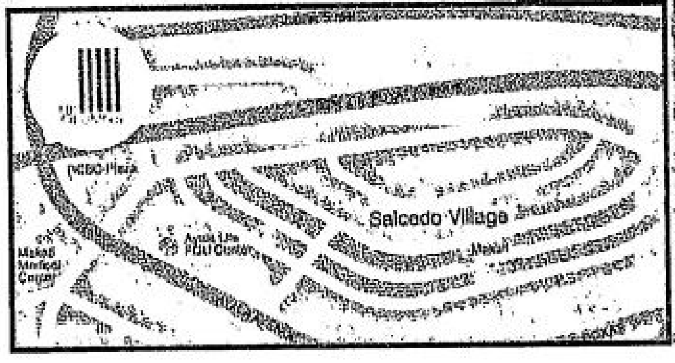
By Joel V. Nigos

One of its most distinct features is the seven-story podium where the 23-story three residential condominium towers will rise.

It also boasts a Recreational Club that stretches across the three towers on the seventh floor, a most desirable place to socialize and relax with family, friends and neighbors.



THE COLUMNS



YOU are young, vibrant and energetic. Dynamic, highly educated, and driven to success, you are the urban achiever who wants to be in the middle of everything, and on top of any situation. You want something that defines you, a gift that befits you when you are on your way to the top. You want to tell the world that you've come this far, and you've earned everything you have and desire.

Not just anything would fit your taste and lifestyle. You are in a unique stage in life where your living space matters a lot to you and your young family.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is perfectly intended for the up-and-coming urban professionals and their families. The Columns is being developed by Community Innovations Inc. (CII)), a wholly owned subsidiary of property giant Ayala Land Inc.

Strategically located right at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat (Buendia) Avenues, The Columns is the only residential establishment along Ayala Avenue that falls in this price range. It's also within walking distance from the business, commercial and entertainment hubs of Makati's central business district.

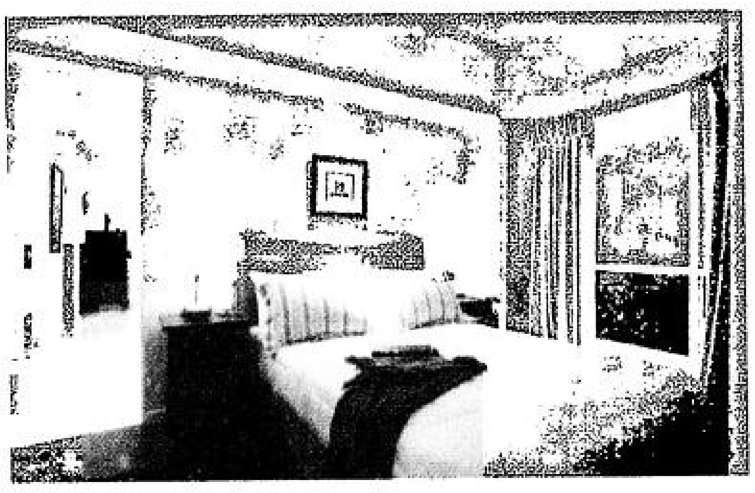
The Columns is an oasis in the city, where nature communes with urban living. The greens and the Zen gardens adorning the grand lobbies soothe guests and residents alike. The ground floor features landscaped plazas, the row of restaurants and cafes offering al fresco dining.

One of its most distinct features is the seven-story podium where the 23-story three residential condominium towers will rise. It also boasts a Recreational Club that stretches across the three towers on the seventh floor, a most desirable place to socialize and relax with family, friends and neighbors.

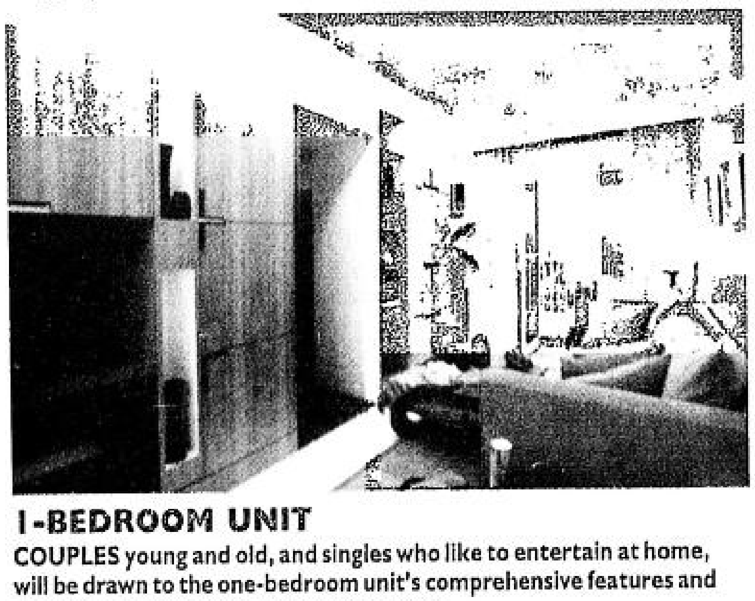
Lush greeneries and amenities are replete at the 7,000 square meter Recreational Club. It has a 25-meter lap pool, and right beside it, a kiddie pool. Function rooms with outdoor spill area, a gym and fitness center, a day care center with indoor and outdoor play area for the residents' children, a game room with mini-theater, a communal wine cellar, an exercise circuit along the jogging path, transient rooms for residents' guests, a multi-purpose outdoor area, barbecue areas for quick get-togethers and meditation alcoves are also found in that whole seventh-floor stretch.

The "three towers of power" offer three kinds of units—the two-bedroom, the one-bedroom and the studio units. Spacious and airy, the two-bedroom unit offers a complete home for a young family with a glorious view of the skyline of Makati. It's a safe, relaxing place to live and grow, and just minutes from all that the city has to offer. The one-bedroom unit is for couples young and old, and for singles who like to entertain at home. The studio unit is sleek, efficient, and doesn't skimp on the features you expect from home. It is a place to hang out, chill, and express your personality. Large windows in every unit on all three towers of The Columns also provide a spectacular view of Makati's skyline.

Just two weeks from the official launch date, the first tower of The Columns is 50-percent sold

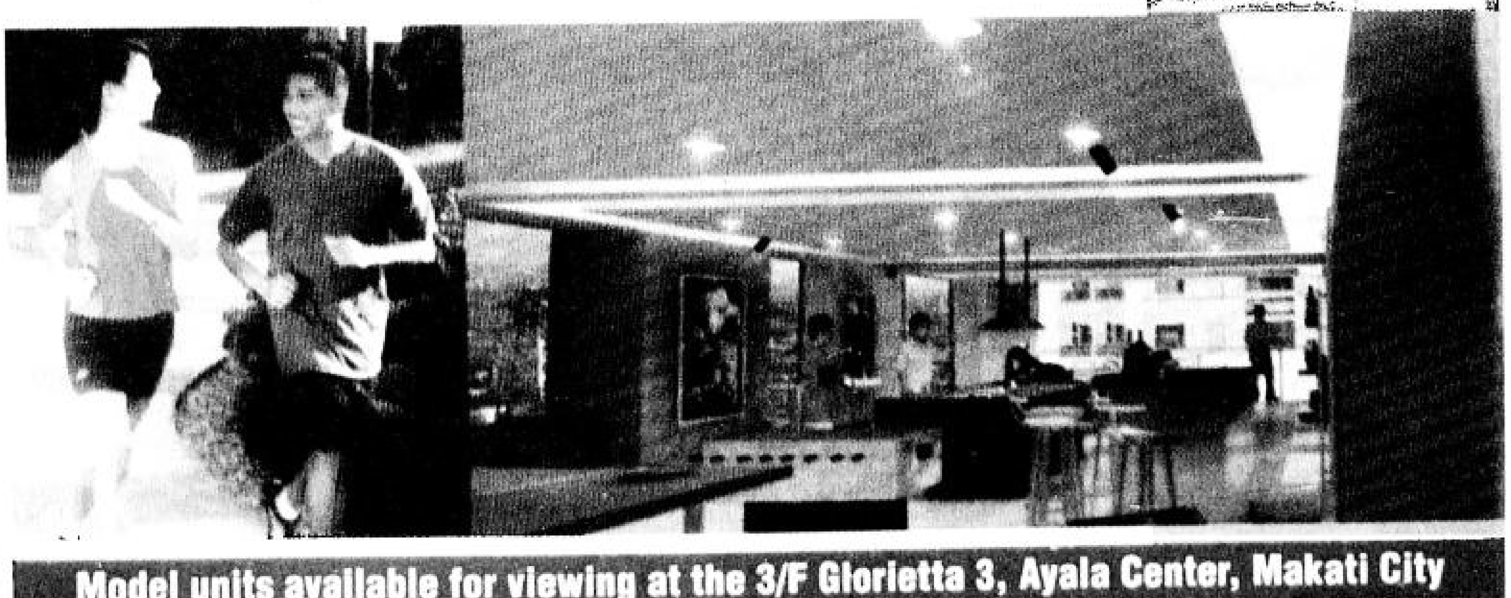


2-BEDROOM UNIT
SPACIOUS and airy, the two-bedroom unit offers a complete home for a young family in the skyline of the city. It's a safe, relaxing place to live and grow in, mere minutes from all the city has to offer. Interior design by Tina Periquet.



1-BEDROOM UNIT
COUPLES young and old, and singles who like to entertain at home, will be drawn to the one-bedroom unit's comprehensive features and amenities. Interior design by Sophia Ojeda.

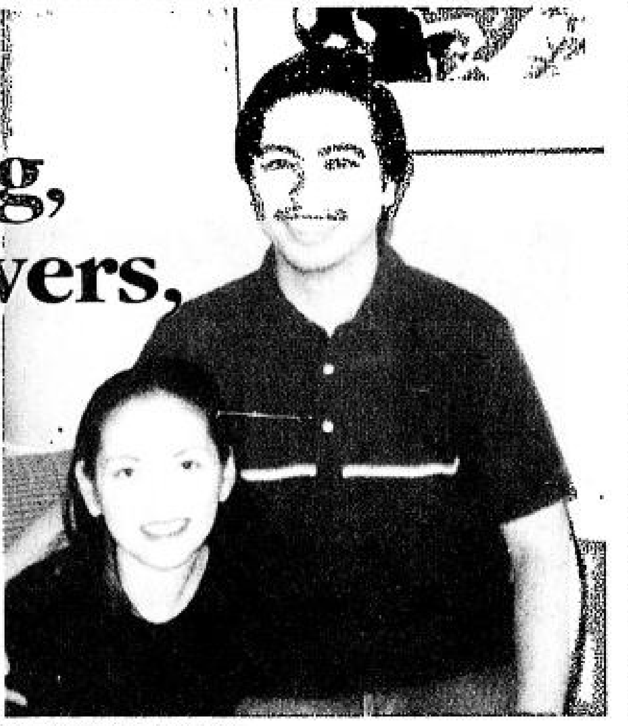
STUDIO UNIT
The first home of your own, it's a place to hang out, chill, and express your personality. It's sleek, efficient, and doesn't skimp on the features you expect from a home. Interior design by Environments Collaborative.



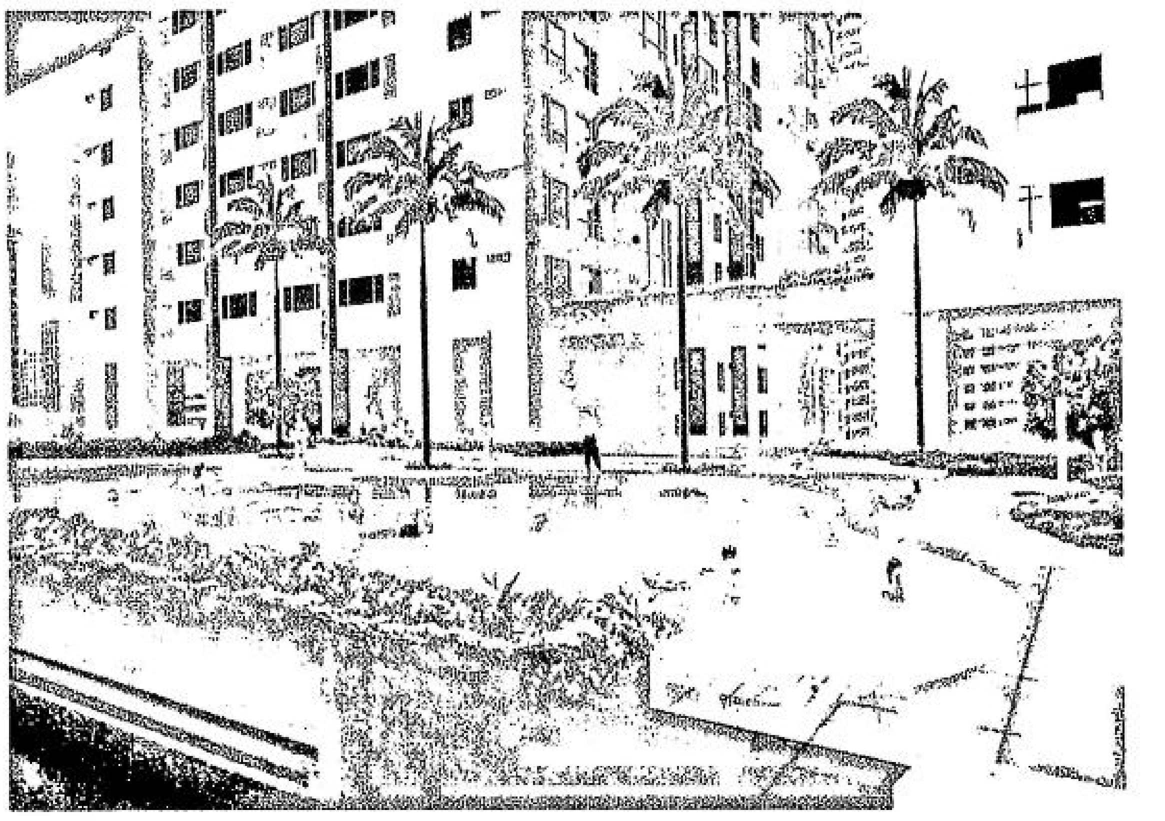
Model units available for viewing at the 3/F Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 750-0484, 750-0471.
Community Innovations Inc. website at www.communityinnovations.com.ph

THE COLUMNS, AYALA AVENUE

Headstart for the young, urban achievers, and more



LARGO (left) and Barba



By Joel V. Nigos

THEY were the ones who right away recognized the value of The Columns, Ayala Avenue. They saw the advantages at the outset: the location, it being developed by an Ayala company, the features and amenities, its investment opportunities, and the versatile lifestyle potentials. Consequently, sealing the deal with a property specialist was not a hard task.

Meet the first ones who grabbed the opportunity to live a few steps from everything.

A house between everything

Ricky Barba, 31, and his fiancee Danie Largo, 25, typify the young and dynamic urban achievers who want to be near it all. Ricky works as a consultant for an international financial organization, while Danie is connected with a prestigious consumer company.

Though they had also invested in Verdana Homes, another property by the same developer eight months ago, they said they didn't let this chance pass by. Living in such a perfect environment was just too irresistible.

"We both travel a lot. I'm thinking that we might be living for long periods of time in other countries. We really don't need a house to maintain. At the same time, at least we have something that we could go home to and we could lock up whenever we leave," says Ricky.

Looking forward to enjoying the unit themselves, the two say the unit "could serve as a transit house, a halfway home for us."

They add that this was their first investment together.

It's Ayala, who else?

For Cora Jacob, the recommendations of her yuppie children sealed the deal.

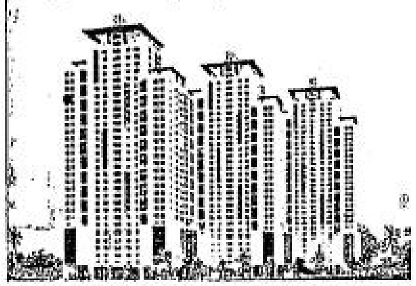
Cora is an internationally acclaimed

HEADSTART/ D4

Location, location, location.

Strategically situated at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue (Buendia), The Columns, Ayala Avenue, Community Innovations, Inc.'s newest development, redefines high rise living. It provides the convenience and prestige of city life, and is within walking distance to the business, commercial and entertainment hubs of Makati's central business district.

The ideal first home of the young urban achievers who want to *live a few steps from everything*.

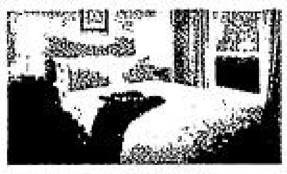


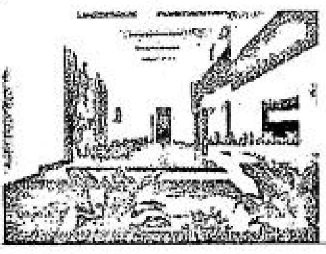
Garden in the city. At the Columns, Ayala Avenue, nature communes with urban living. Its design creates an open-space environment and relaxing surroundings. The interplay of greens and Zen gardens that adorn the Grand Lobbies of each tower give a soothing experience to residents and guests alike.

Three towers of power. Three towers on a continuous podium level define The Columns, Ayala Avenue. Each tower will have 30 storeys, 23 of which will be residential. The five-level upper ground parking is shielded from the outside by an artwork that gives the building prominence along Ayala and Buendia Avenues.

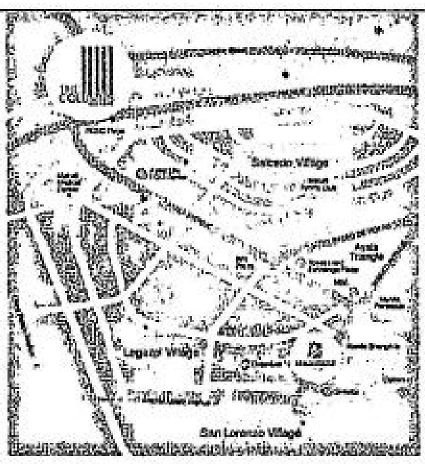
The layout maximizes the advantages of its prominent site, which allows more units to be facing the morning sun while avoiding the afternoon heat. Natural lighting and good ventilation are also taken into consideration in each of the studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom residential units - a rare feature among residential condominiums.

To create a more open feel for space, select units even have bay windows; others have balconies overlooking the city. The top three levels will house very private units, which have breath-taking scenery.





The Recreational Club, which stretches across the 7th floor podium of all three towers, provides residents a source of recreation and an ideal venue for socializing with other residents. It has a 25-meter adults' lap pool, kids' pool, spacious function rooms with spill-over area, a gym, game room with mini-theater, daycare center with indoor and outdoor play area, communal wine cellar, jogging path and transient rooms for the residents' guests - almost like a hotel!



To make it even more fascinating, the ground floor will have landscaped plazas, a row of cafes and al fresco dining spots, indeed the perfect setting for unwinding after a day's busy schedule.

Live a few steps from everything. If you're young, dynamic, and energetic, The Columns, Ayala Avenue lets you live a few steps from everything.

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
AN AYALA LAND COMPANY

Model units are available for viewing.

As low as ₱17,000 per month

Live a few steps from everything.

THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE

Imagine living close to your place of work, you never have to worry about parking again.

THE COLUMNS, Ayala Avenue. It won't just be near Makati's central business district but right on top of it! THE COLUMNS will rise right between Salcedo and Legazpi Villages. Just walking distance to the various office buildings in the area. Walk to work. Walk back for lunch. Take a nap. In fact, sleep the sleep of one who never has to worry about parking and driving again.

THE COLUMNS, Ayala Avenue. The ideal address for young, urban achievers who want to be near it all!

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
AN AYALA LAND COMPANY

HLURB License to Sell No. 06237

Call tel. nos. 750-0484 and 750-0471, e-mail us at cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit us at www.communityinnovations.com.ph for more information.

THE TWO-BEDROOM UNIT

THE ONE-BEDROOM UNIT

THE STUDIO UNIT

NOTED entrepreneur Cora Jacob (extreme left) with Angie De Villa-Lacson, CII president, and Cecille Taniugo, property specialist

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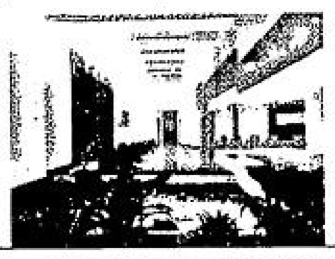

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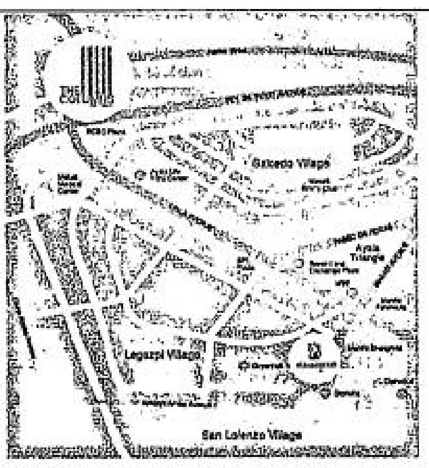

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AN AYALA LAND COMPANY

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As low as ₱17,000 per month

Headstart

From page D3

bags and fashion accessories exporter and founder of the Cora Cares Foundation Inc., an organization involved in creating unique and beautiful handbags made by out-of-school youths. With this background, she knows how important skill and dedication is when it comes to crafting something of beauty and creativity.

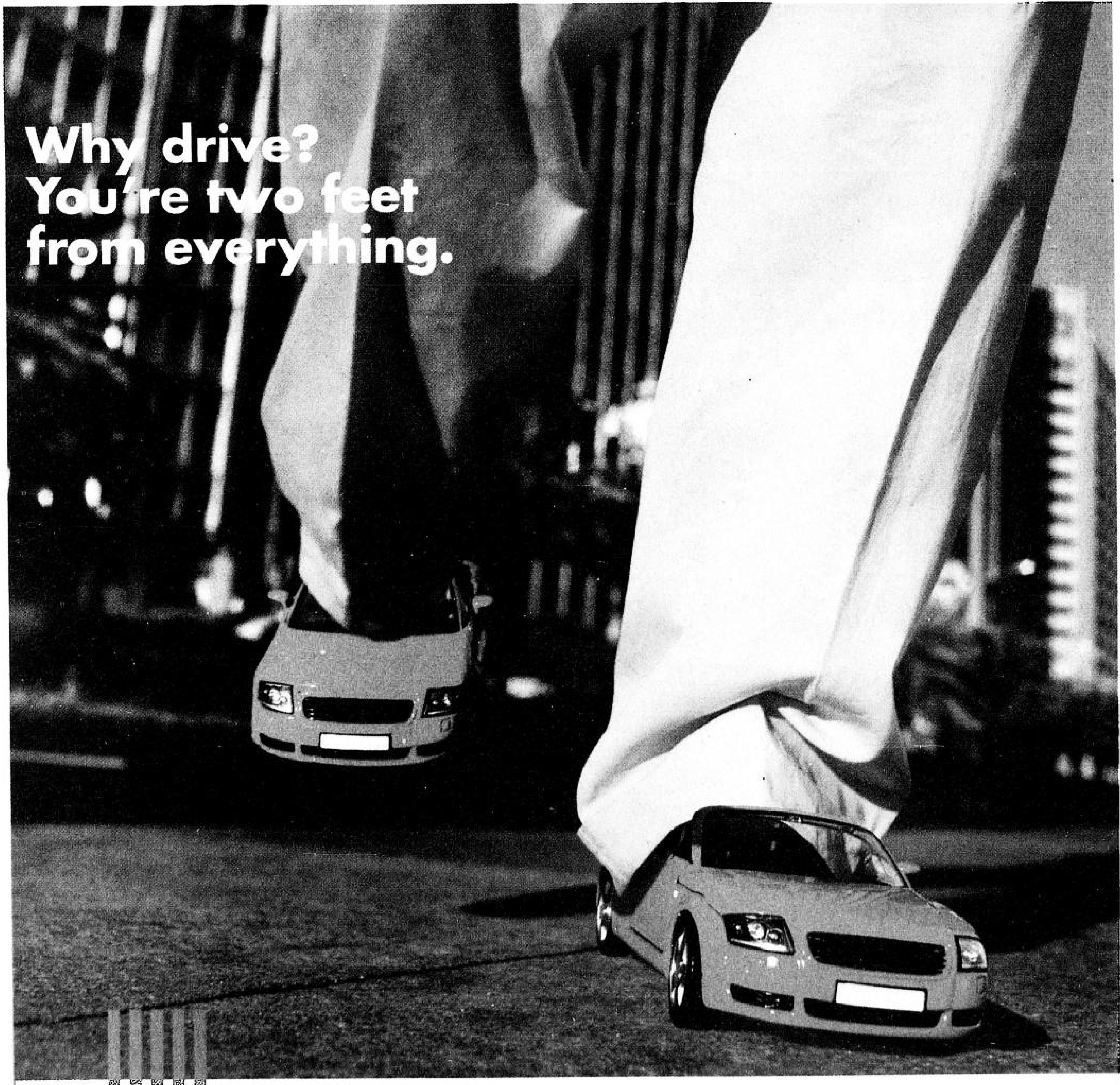
Realizing that The Columns was developed by an Ayala company, Cora says she believed right there and then in the project.

"The name Ayala helped me make a quick decision. It is a very prestigious company, and a very good investment," says Cora.

When she saw the model units of The Columns on exhibit at Glorietta 3, she upgraded her booking of a studio to a one-bedroom unit.

She says she can now ask her professional international partners to stay there and not look for other places to stay when they visit the Philippines.

> They saw the advantages at the outset: the location, it being developed by an Ayala company, the [illegible] and [illegible] investment opportunities [illegible]



THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE

How would you like to live just two feet from the post office, hospitals, banks, churches, and schools? Your two feet, that is.

THE COLUMNS, Ayala Avenue will soon rise right at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues. A short walk, a mere hop, to all those and many other places. Imagine living where the only vehicle you really need to get around are the ones you were born with. And maybe a nice pair of shoes.

THE COLUMNS, Ayala Avenue is the ideal address for young, urban achievers who want to be near it all!

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
AN AYALA LAND COMPANY

HLURB License to Sell No. 06237 **Call tel. nos. 750-0484 and 750-0471,** e-mail us at cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit us at www.communityinnovations.com.ph for more information.

Eastwood City celebrates two red-letter days

THIS month, Eastwood City is painting the town red with the promise of love and good fortune.

The Eastwood Night Market is holding until Feb. 27 a Love 'n' Luck Festival to celebrate Valentine's Day and the Chinese New Year.

Decked out in bright-red decorations, over 100 stalls are selling specialty items including flowers and plants, jewelry, ladies' and men's apparels, children's toys and clothes, scented candles and oils, perfumes and colognes, leather goods, novelties, accessories, home décor. Highlight is the special sale on romantic gifts and Chinese items such as delicacies, snacks and tea pottery.

Known for its good location and choice merchandise, the Eastwood Night Market attracts crowds with its bargains and themes. It is open 5 p.m.-12 mn on weekdays and until 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

A series of events is also taking place at the Eastwood City Walk: Feb. 7-21, "Love Stories @ Fashion Square." Movie aficionados can get their hands on celebrated romantic movies of screen sweethearts such as Julia Roberts and Audrey Hepburn. Movies like "My Best Friend's Wedding," "Roman Holiday" and other memorable hits are available at the Fashion Square lobby.

Shoppers may then visit the square's shops: The Flower Factory, Garden Room Café, Gloss Designer Nails, Hairbytes Salon, Mico.

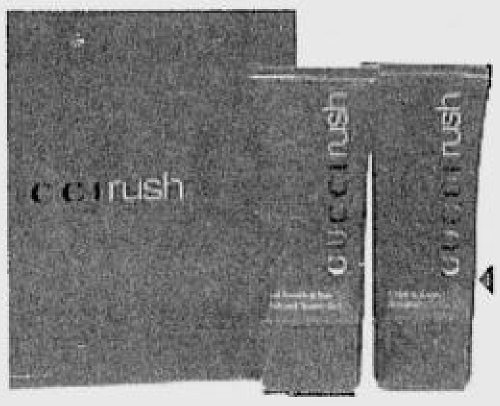
On Feb. 13, FM station Wave 89.1 will hold its Valentine Event at the Central Plaza. Live entertainment will keep the crowd grooving to the latest tunes.

On Feb. 21, the Central Plaza will host the PBA kick-off party to celebrate the opening of the new PBA season. Some of the most popular PBA players will grace the affair and jam with the bands performing at the party.

TREAT FOR LOVERS

Receive a double treat from Gucci Parfums until Feb. 28. Any purchase of a Gucci ladies' fragrance entitles you to a 30-percent discount on Envy for Men or Rush for Men Eau de Toilette. On top of this, you will be given a special Gucci Rush gift package containing a Rush Eau de Toilette miniature, shower gel and body lotion. Limited offer only.

Gucci Parfums is distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and available in all leading department stores nationwide.



TIMEX EXPEDITION
TIMEX EXPEDITION

TIMEX presents its his-and-her collection. The collection features the same styles for both men and women but with distinctive characteristics to distinguish the gender that will wear them. Distributed by Newtrends International Corporation, Timex wristwatches are available in watch and jewelry shops, Timex shops and kiosks and leading department stores nationwide.

For the first time in the Philippines – Intriguing Breakthrough Vanilla Potion!

by Douglas Napoleon Ricarte

It's the first ever to hit Philippine shores. It's one of a kind. It's exciting – and it's only available at 7-Eleven!

What in the world could this be? Okay a few hints…it smells like – Vanilla! Tastes a little like – Vanilla! But isn't! Not really. Because it's something else, too. Something really and truly refreshing. And totally interesting and different for your taste buds!

Now, you must be dying to know what it is. It's called – haha, like we'd tell!

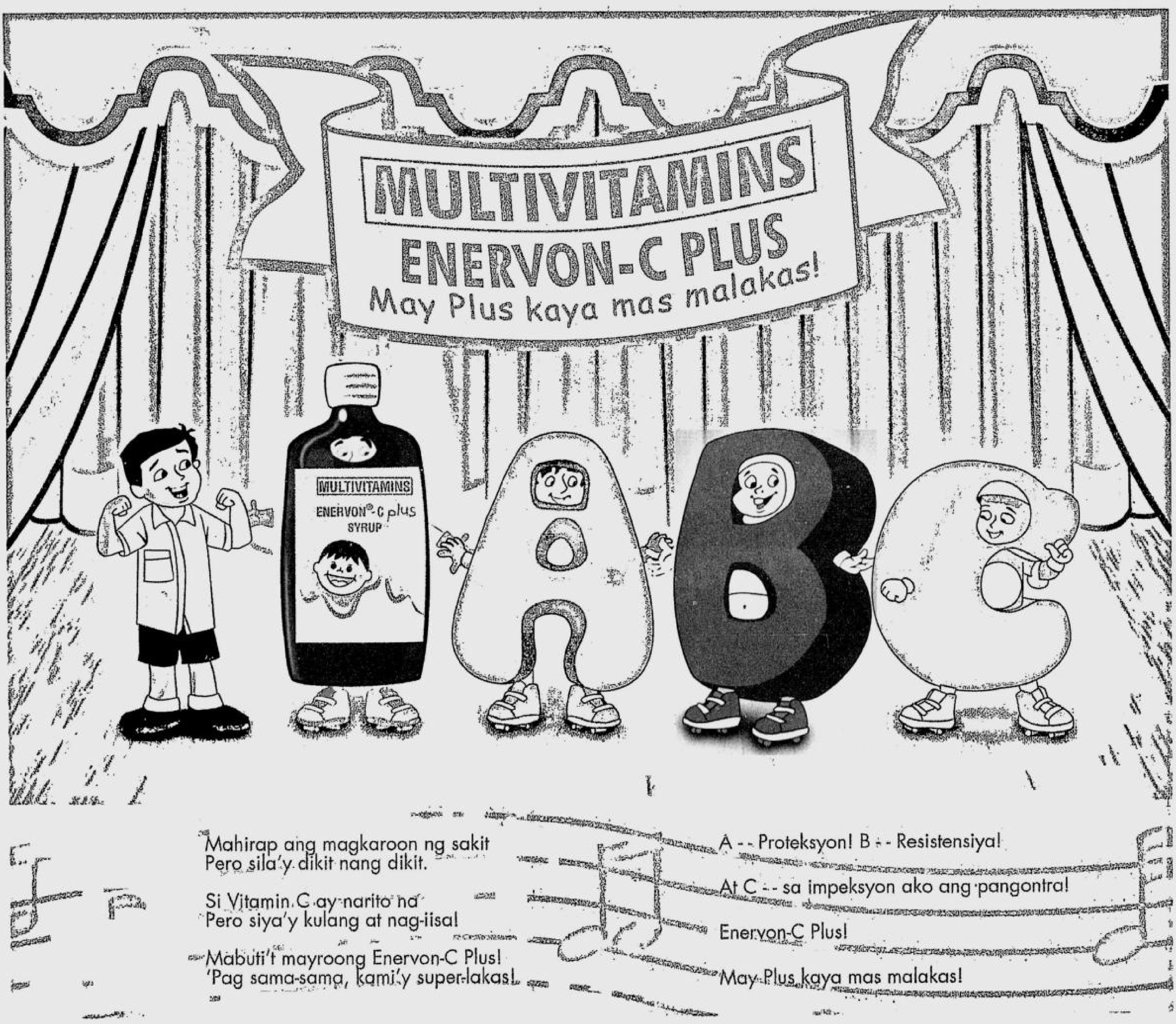
Bet you're curious now, huh?

Specially since this thing is so, so new -- not too many people know about it. And if you went off to find out more, you'll certainly be one of the very first to discover what it is. Now wouldn't that be exciting! You could say, "I tried it first!"

But yeah, you still have to go and find out about it. Though, of course, we'll be glad to give you a clue – THIS IS ONLY AVAILABLE AT 7-Eleven! As in, no other store has this yet, so don't look anywhere else…Just go to 7-Eleven, have a look around – poke where you're not allowed to. For sure you'll discover something that will intrigue and excite you!

Seriously, stop reading this now. **Reward your curiosity – go to 7-Eleven!**

BAWAL SUMILIP sa p.7



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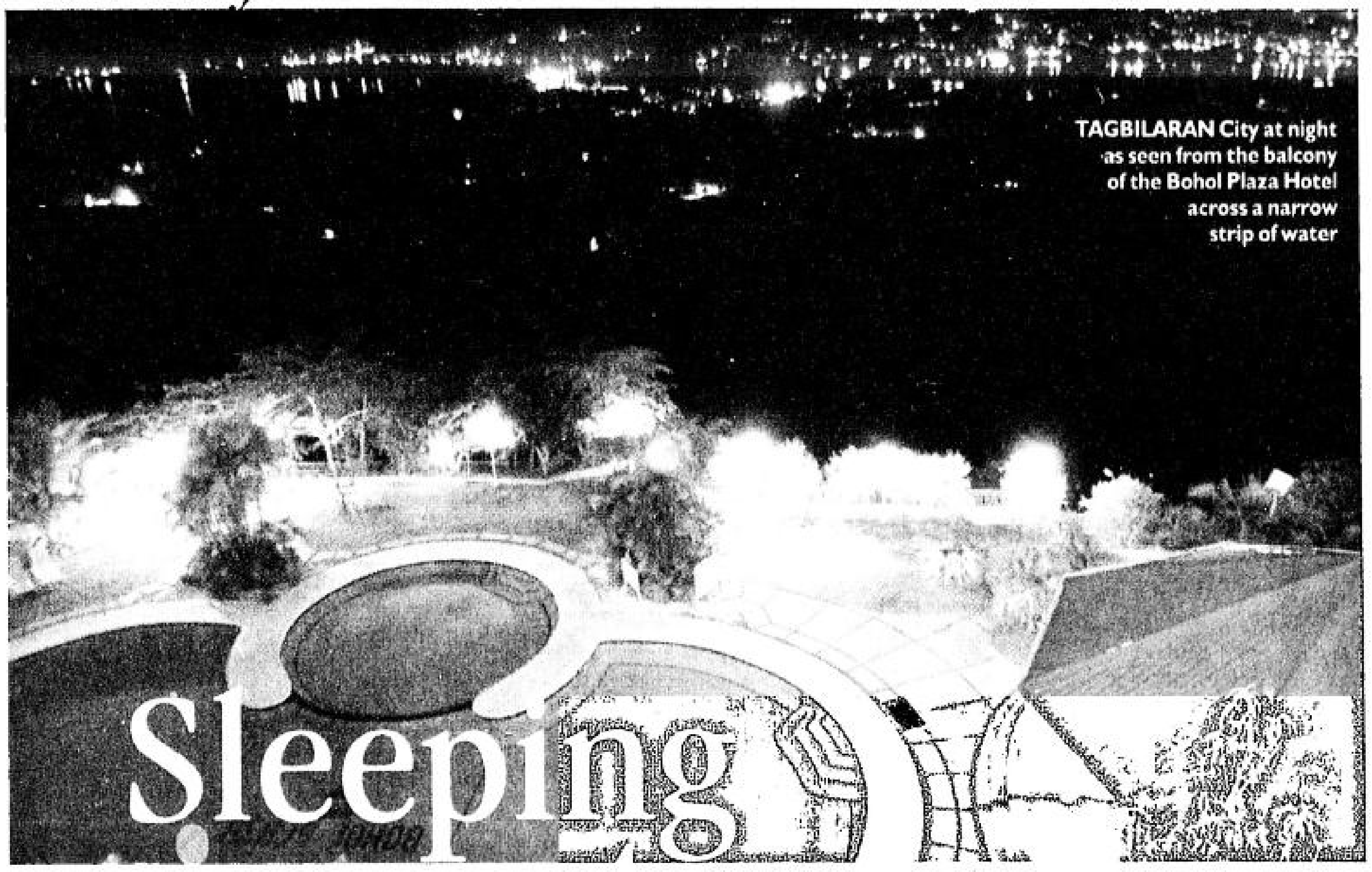
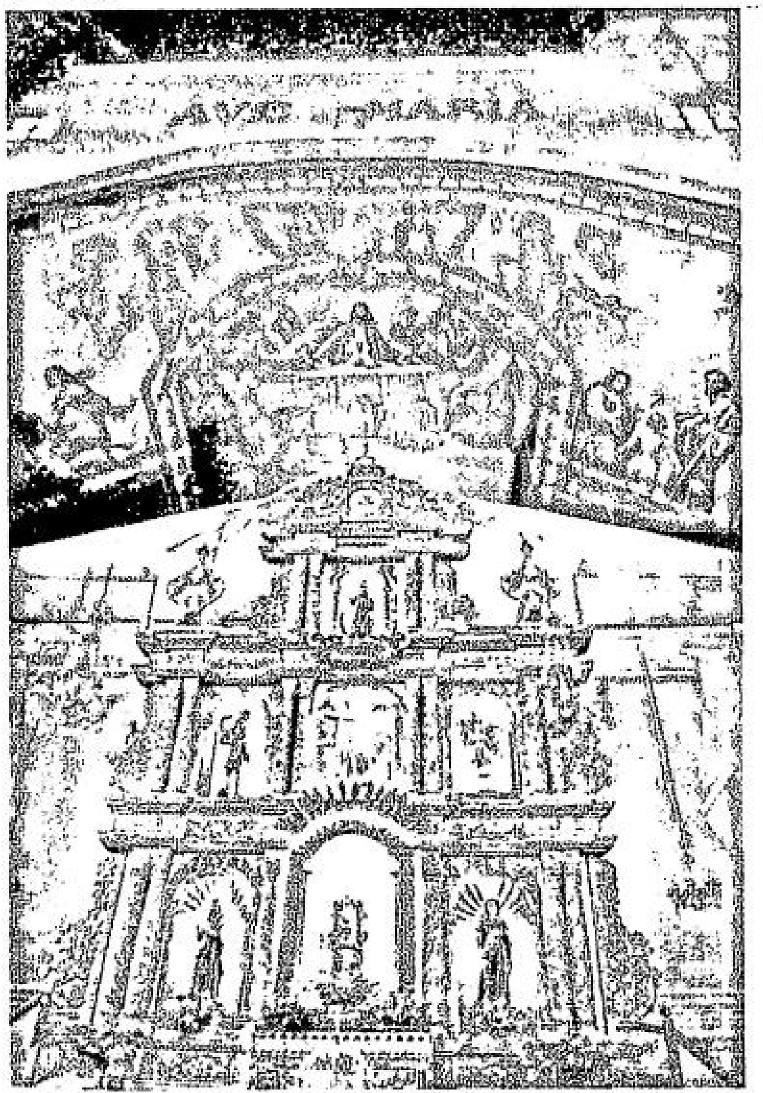


TAGBILARAN City at night as seen from the balcony of the Bohol Plaza Hotel across a narrow strip of water

Sleeping giant awakens



AN ORNATE "retablo" holds the Baclayon Parish patron saint, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, and other images of the Virgin and the Child Jesus.

Bohol, no longer just an entry in history and geography books, has become one of the most exciting destinations in the country

From page D1

Hardworking, thrifty and self-effacing, Bohol natives—or Bol-anons as they are known across the strait—have been the butt of jokes not only in Cebu but in many parts of the Visayas for generations. They were the hicks from the boondocks, easily overwhelmed by a bustling city like Cebu and awed by the simplest of conveniences and gadgets.

The province itself, although it figured prominently in the history of the Philippines and had one of its native sons, Carlos P. Garcia, elected to the presidency, remained pretty much just an entry in local textbooks for many Filipinos. Students read about it but were hard put locating it on the map.

But the days of Bohol as an undiscovered gem of a travel destination—rich in history, culture and tourist attractions—are just about over. These days, there is so much eagerness and anticipation to travel to the Visayan province and those who have been there return home enthused about what Bohol has to offer.

Many foreign visitors, in fact, have been so enchanted that not only have they returned but have chosen to stay for good.

Palawan may be generally considered the eco-tourism capital of the Philippines but Bohol, which styles itself as an eco-cultural destination, could very easily give it a run for its money. The Visayan province has, among other things, the awe-inspiring Chocolate Hills, 1,268 cone-shaped natural formations between 30 and 50 meters high that turn chocolate brown (hence, the name) in the dry season when the sparse vegetation dies. They are spread over the municipalities of Carmen, Sagbayan and Batuan and can be viewed by climbing 214 steps to the top of an observation hill.

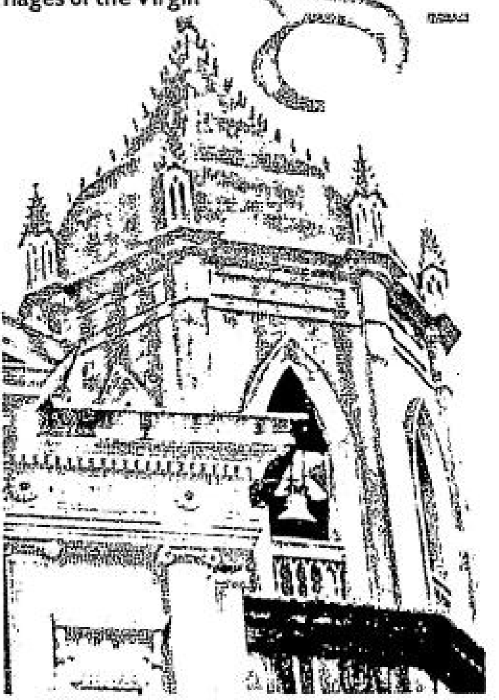
When giants roamed

In the Visayas where many legends speak of the days when giants roamed the earth, including the Philippines, the birth of the hills is attributed by local folk tales to the same huge creatures.

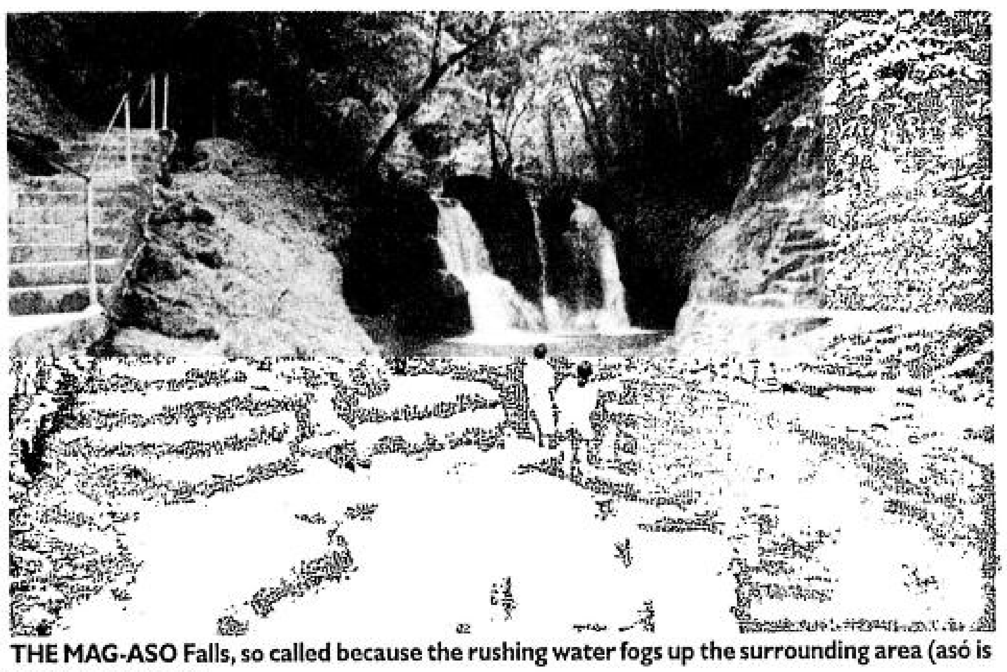
Gov. Erico Aumentado knows by heart at least two legends about the Chocolate Hills. One story tells of two dueling giants who hurled stones and sand at each other that became the beginning of the hills.

A romantic version of the legend tells of a young giant who fell in love with an ordinary girl. When she died, the giant cried so hard his tears became the hills.

The scientific explanation, of course, is very different from the folk tales. Geologists believe the hills were formed some two million years ago when Bohol, initially below sea level, was gradually pushed to the surface by ocean currents and tides. The hills were coral reefs that were also pushed to the surface, as proven by their composition—coral fragments, sand and limestone. It is said that the fossil of a giant clam—more than a meter wide—was discovered in the area of the hills.



THE BELL tower of the Lady of Assumption Church built in 1774 in Dauis on the island of Panglao



THE MAG-ASO Falls, so called because the rushing water fogs up the surrounding area (asó is smoke in Visayan)

DAUIS men wait outside the Lady of Assumption Church as people leave after Sunday mass.

Another major crowd-drawer for Bohol is the tiny, timorous and increasingly endangered tarsier, mistakenly labeled a monkey. People who have had the chance to go near the animal with a tail that is as long as a rat's, eyes that seem to fill up its entire head, which can be turned 180°, cannot help but be enchanted.

The richness of Bohol's natural attributes is matched by the wealth of its historical and cultural heritage. While the Portuguese Ferdinand Magellan was stopped on his tracks by the warrior Lapu-lapu in Cebu before he could explore other parts of the Philippines, it was in Bohol that the Spaniards, who were to stay in the country for about 300 years, got a firm toehold, so to speak.

Sealed with blood

The name Bohol supposedly came from Bool, where Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, leader of one of the expeditions that followed Magellan's initial foray into Philippine shores, negotiated a treaty of friendship with Datu Sikatuna, a native chieftain, in 1565. The agreement was sealed through a blood compact. Both Sikatuna and Legazpi made cuts on their left arms, collected a few drops of blood in a drinking vessel, which was topped with wine. The mixture was transferred into two other vessels from which Sikatuna and Legazpi drank. The Order of Sikatuna, conferred by Philippine Presidents on departing foreign diplomats, got its name from the native chieftain.

The historic event is now marked in an annual festival known as the "Sandugo" and immortalized in a bronze sculpture by Napoleon Abueva on the site where the actual event took place. Marianito Luspo, director of the Diwanag Dance Theater of the Holy Name University in Tagbilaran City, has also created a dance production depicting the event, which has become a highlight of the festival.

Despite the warm reception they accorded the early Spanish arrivals, the Bol-anons were to prove later that they were no pushovers. During the Spanish regime, two significant revolts occurred in Bohol, one lasting for 85 years and considered the longest uprising in Philippine history, outlasting even its own leader.

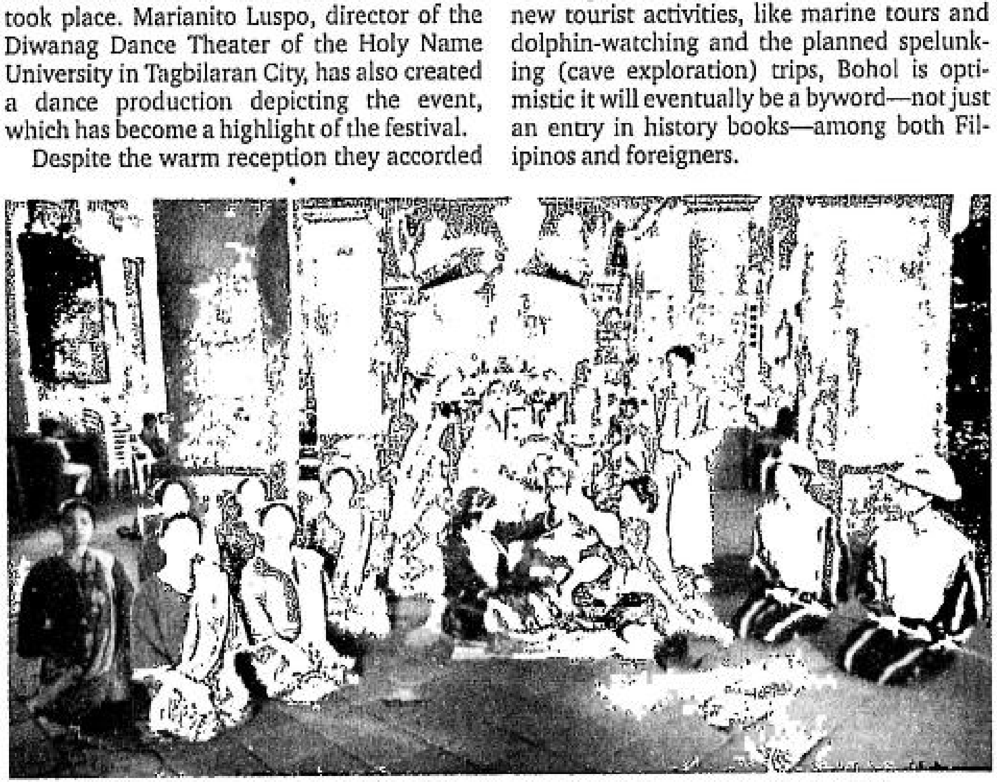
The Tamblot Uprising in 1621 was led by a native priest or Babaylan, who tried to win back the natives who converted to Christianity, while the 85-year revolt, the Dagohoy Rebellion from 1744 to 1829, was led by one Francisco Dagohoy. This, too, was triggered by a conflict with the Jesuits. Although the rebellion would eventually embrace other issues, it was a Jesuit priest's refusal to give a Christian burial to the rebel leader's brother, who died in a duel while carrying out the same priest's order, that led to the uprising. On orders of the priest, the corpse was exposed for three days in front of a church.

Despite the uneasy relationship between Bol-anons and the foreign priests, the three centuries of Spanish rule in the country have given the province some of their most impressive man-made tourist attractions. Almost every single town has a centuries-old church that bespeak not only of a colorful history but also of a rich cultural tradition.

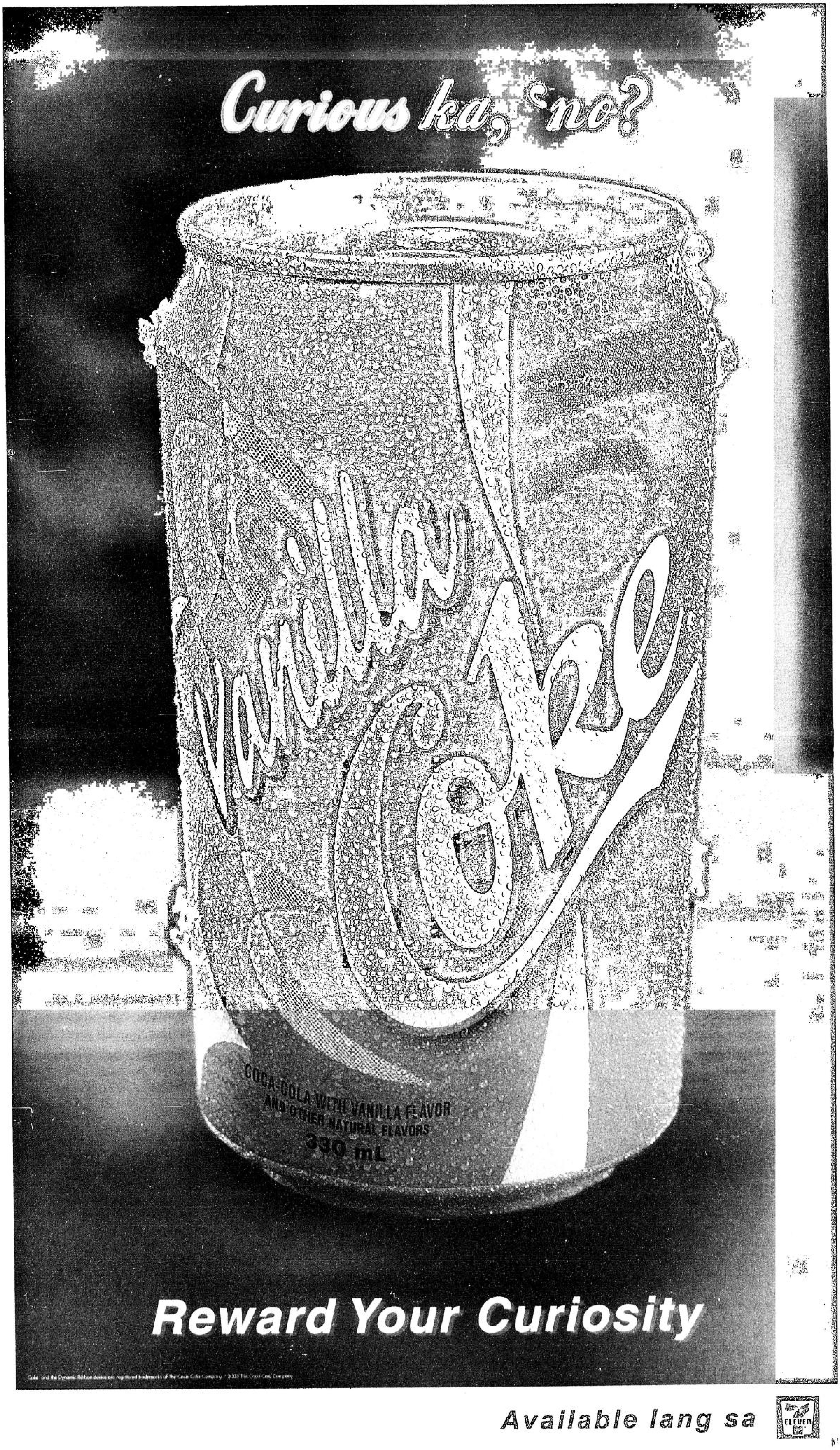
Efforts to preserve and maintain these impressive edifices have been spotty but they remain among Bohol's top draws. In fact, one can plan a whole tourist itinerary around Bohol's churches, some kind of a Visita Iglesia that does not have to be done only during Holy Week.

After years of being treated like no more than an adjunct of Cebu, Bohol is finally coming into its own. With the promise of more direct flights from Manila and the launch of new tourist activities, like marine tours and dolphin-watching and the planned spelunking (cave exploration) trips, Bohol is optimistic it will eventually be a byword—not just an entry in history books—among both Filipinos and foreigners.

SHOWING amazing foresight, Bohol started a reforestation program in 1958. This man-made plantation of mahogany along the main road from Tagbilaran covers 850 hectares.



THE DIWANAG Dance Theater of the Holy Name University under the direction of Marianito Luspo reenacts the Blood Compact between Datu Sikatuna and Miguel Lopez de Legazpi inside the imposing Baclayon Church.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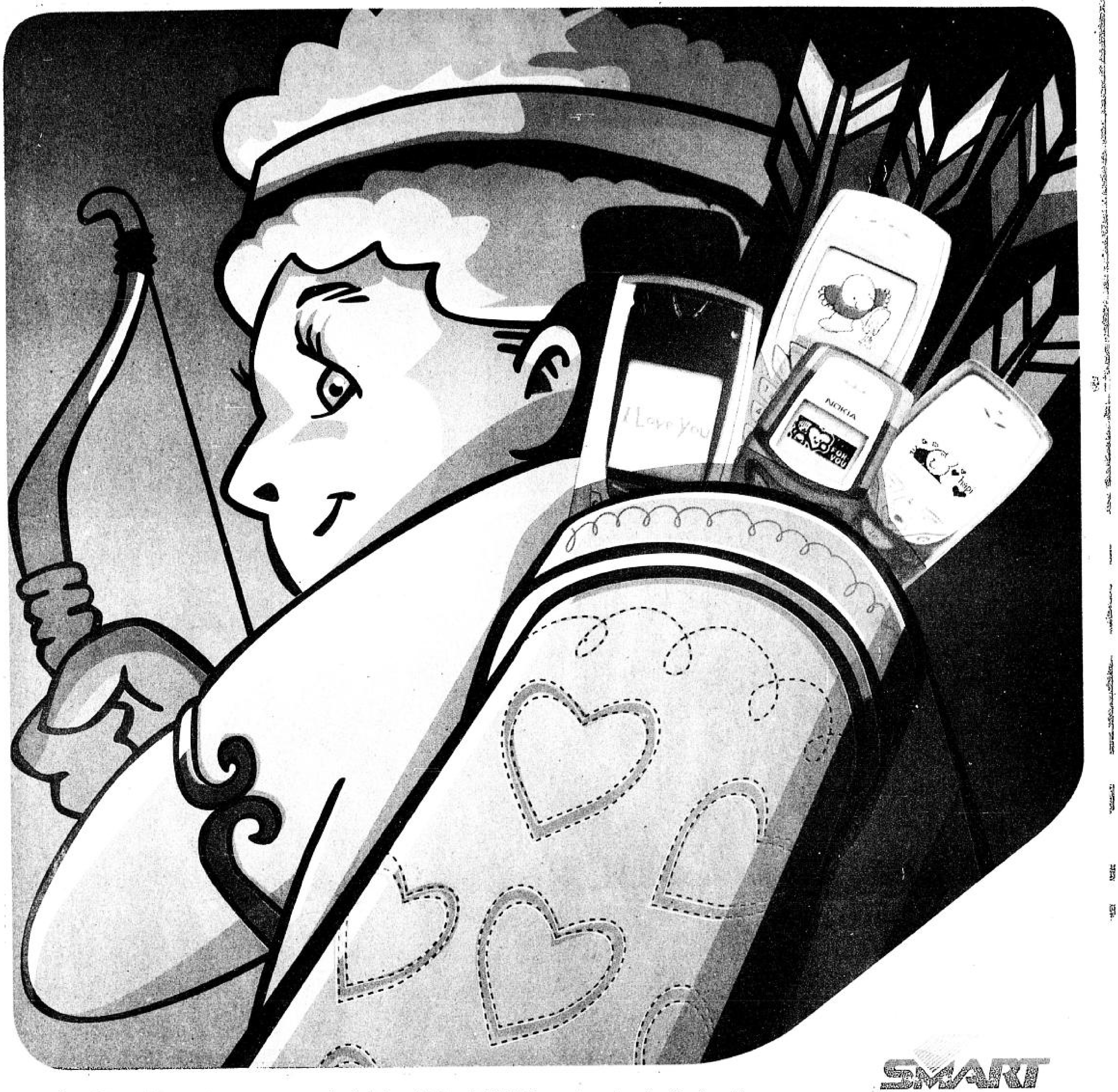
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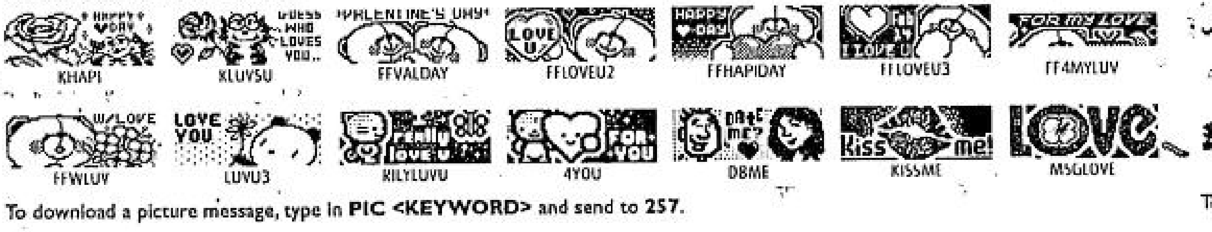
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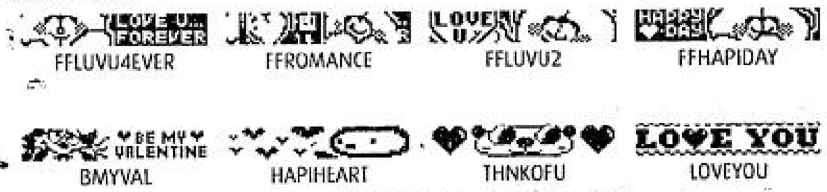
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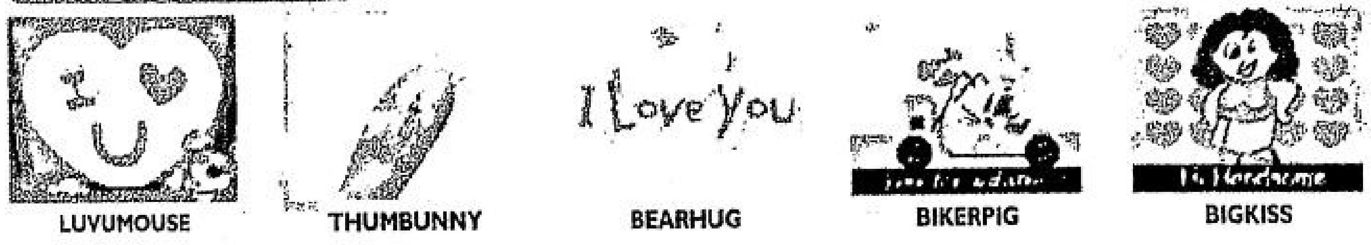
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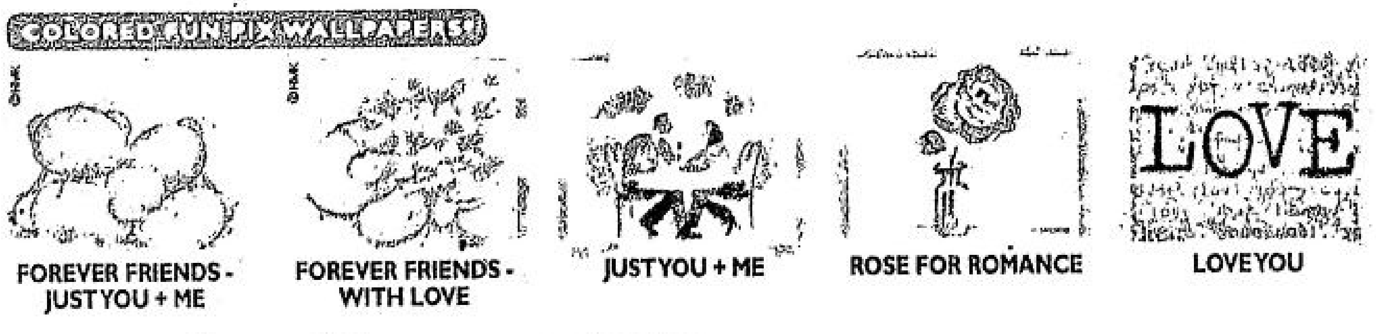
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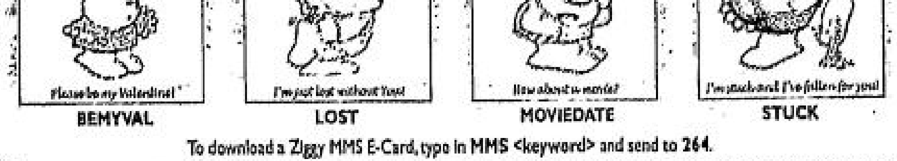
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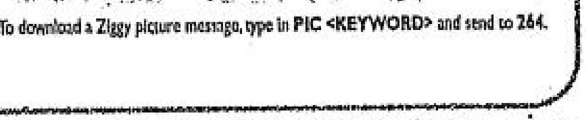
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

VIEW OF THE SEA from the restaurant's connecting wooden walkway

Bohol beckons

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joan Bondoc

WHEN Frederick and Barbara Ong acquired a beachfront property on Panglao Island in the mid-'90s, the couple had no inkling that they would someday be running one of the best and most beautiful resorts in the province of Bohol. It didn't take long, however, before Frederick saw the property's potential from feedback from guests staying at the Metro Centre, the family's then newly opened business hotel in nearby Tagbilaran.

"As soon as guests arrived at the airport," said Frederick, whose family started in the retail business, "they would invariably ask our drivers where the best resorts were. We soon saw that there was still room for another resort, but we weren't sure back then how to make ourselves different from the rest."

It didn't matter whether they were foreigners or locals, businessmen or plain tourists. Bohol's pristine attractions never fail to capture first-time visitors to the island-province, which has lately been experiencing a steady climb in tourist arrivals, thanks to direct flights to Cebu from such cities as Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Taipei and Seoul.

The city of Tagbilaran, Bohol's thriving capital, is a mere 1-hour and 30-minute ferry ride away from the bigger and more cosmopolitan city of Cebu. Panglao Island is less than 30 minutes away by car from Tagbilaran, connected to the mainland by a bridge.

On a cliff

Taking this development as their cue, the Ongs lost no time in commissioning architect Teofilo Vasquez to design a resort complex above a one-story high limestone cliff overlooking the Bohol Sea and several smaller islands.

"I immediately liked what I saw on the blueprint," said Frederick. "It offered a feel of exclusivity without constricting our future guests."

They decided to name their newest venture Panglao Island Nature Resort or PINR to further stress Bohol's strengths as a destination for eco-tourism. Aside from giving a vantage view of the various attractions, the cliff acts as a natural barrier between the property and the white-sand beach below. Shallow waters surrounding the property and a breakwater reef make it next to impossible for boats to come too close to PINR.

"The kidnapping at Dos Palmas didn't affect us as much as the Sipadan incident did," said Ong. "These developments ultimately hurt tourism in the country, but I have yet to find out if they're good or bad for us [in Bohol]. A lot of tourists have shied away from Mindanao and have come to Bohol."

Vasquez and his team were also responsible for designing a portion of the Lagen Island re-

• BOHOL/E6

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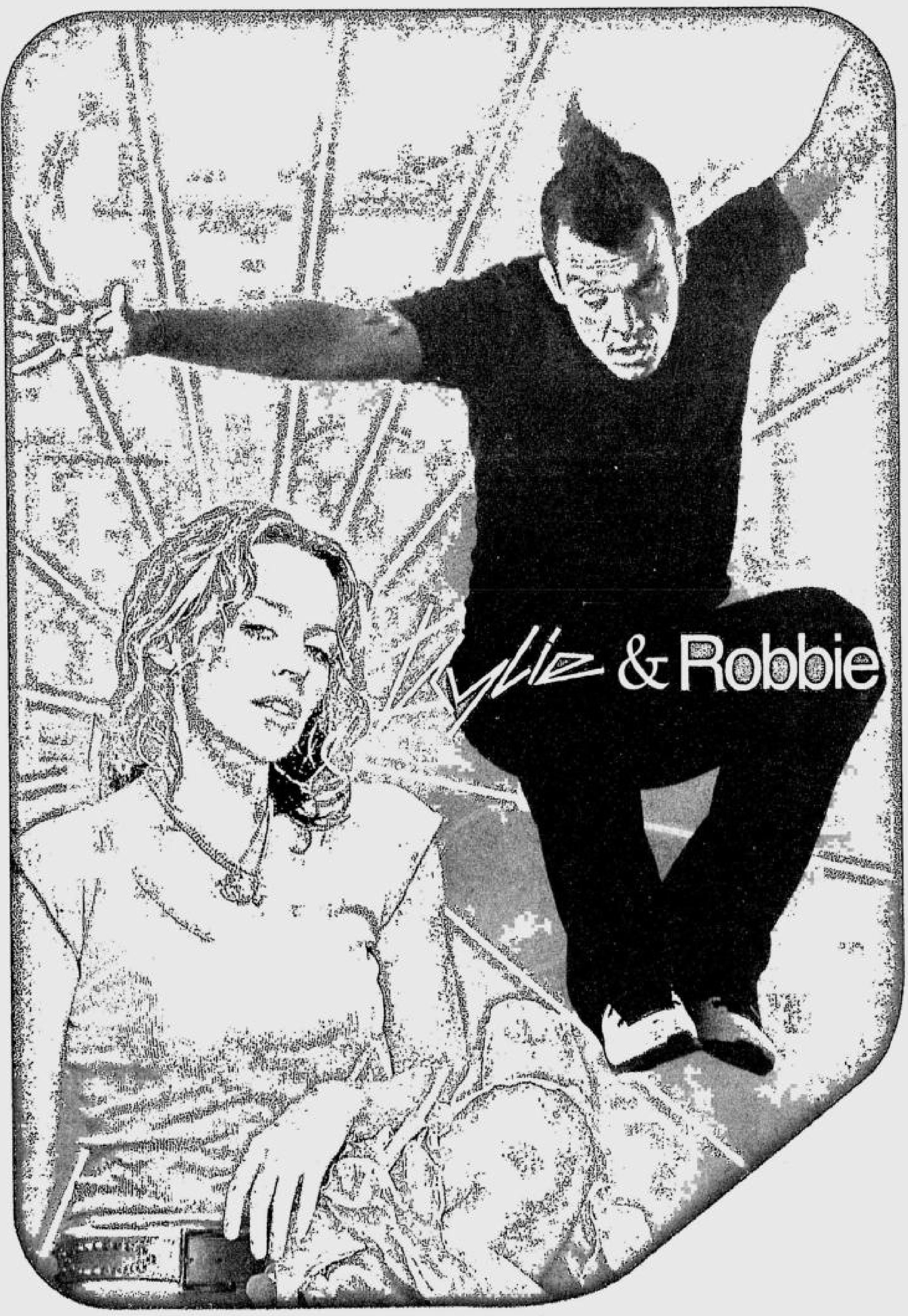

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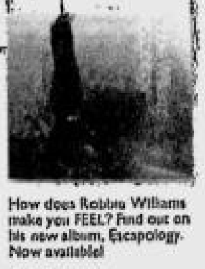

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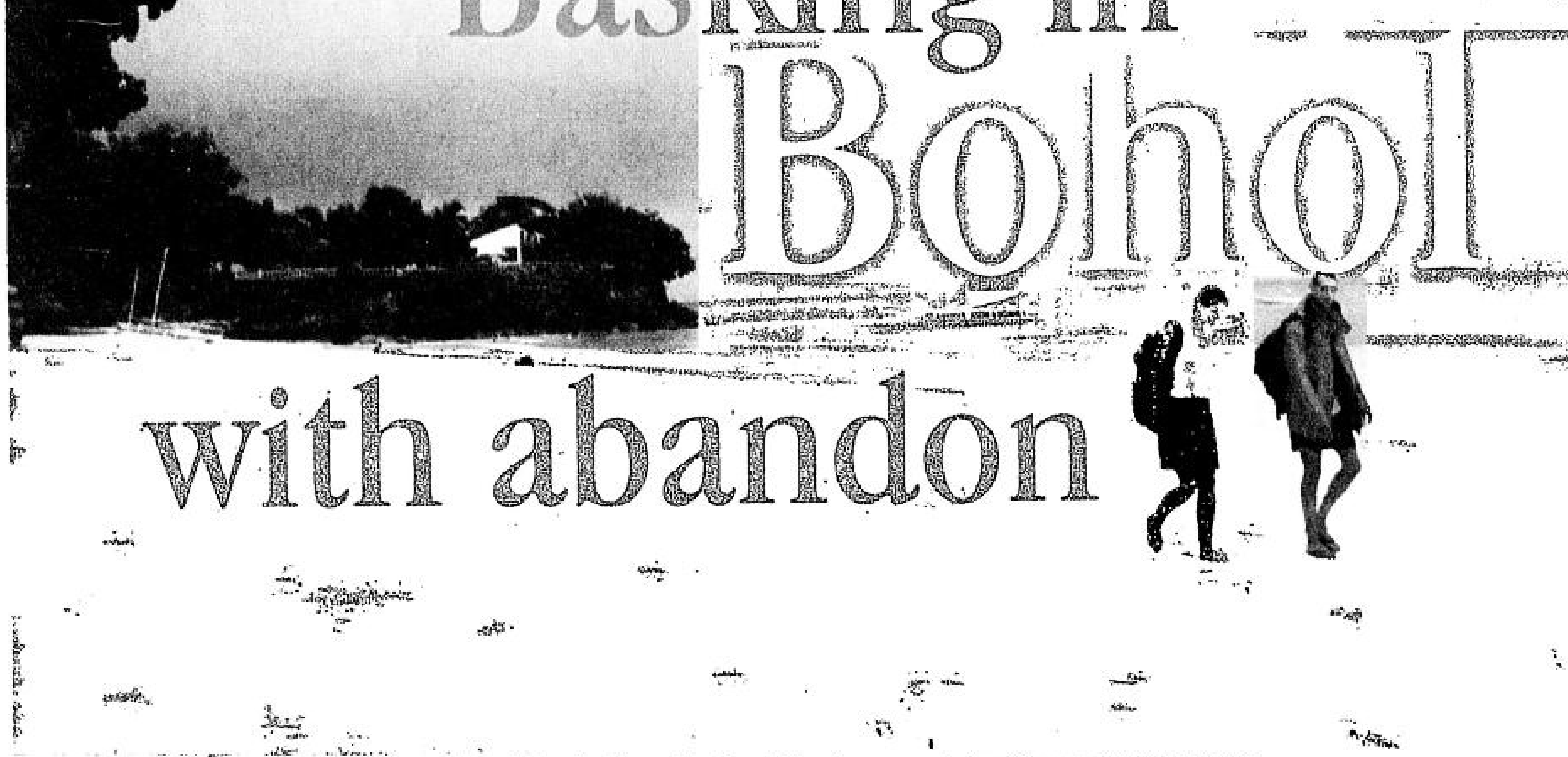
BEACH-BUM HEAVEN. The expanse of white-sand beach facing Bohol Beach Club can give Boracay a run for its money.

Basking in Bohol with abandon



JUST AS LOVELY. The long stretch of white-sand beach fronting Alona Palm Beach Resort was named after '70s sexy star Alona Alegre.

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Joan Bondoc

BOHOL is home to some of the most amazing works of nature and significant cultural and historical artifact, and it is only fitting that it opens itself to visitors. Playing host to the visitors are world-class resorts and hotels.

The pioneer among the resorts is Bohol Beach Club in the island of Panglao, 30 minutes by land from the capital city of Tagbilaran. In operation for 18 years now, the resort has 1.5 km of pristine white-sand beach. Charming cogon-roofed huts line the beach, with massage tables and lounge chairs for sun-bathing guests.

Guests can choose from over 60 rooms and suites to suit their budgets and needs. "When you visit Bohol, you get value for your money," says Fe Ginete, sales and PR manager of Tambuli Resorts, which operates Bohol Beach Club. "Unlike, say, Boracay, you don't just come here for the beaches but also to commune with nature and get to know the local culture. You will never run out of things to do."

The resorts in Bohol can arrange countryside and ecotours for guests—a visit to the famed Chocolate Hills, the tarsier sanctuary, old churches, river cruise, dolphin and whale watching, and diving and snorkeling in some of the world's best dive spots.

In the past, says Ginete, Bohol Beach Club had a reputation for being elitist because it carefully screened visitors. "But this is only proof that the safety of our guests is a primary concern." In fact, she adds, the resort is open to day tours for those who only want to carouse on the beach or dine at its restaurant.

On Alona Beach, also in Panglao, is Alona Palm Beach and Restaurant. The year-old resort also faces a kilometer-long stretch of white sand beach, which was named after the '70s sexy actress Alona Alegre. The unique Asian-European architecture of the resort was the work of owner Marcel Brunner, who was an architect in Switzerland before he and his Boholana wife, Angie, decided to move to Bohol for good. He designed everything down to the headboards of the beds of the 12 luxury villas.

Time for life

With a spectacular infinity pool as centerpiece, Brunner's property reflects the kind of life he longed for when he left his country. "In Europe, you live to work. It is very stressful. You have no time for life," he says. "Here, it is very relaxing."

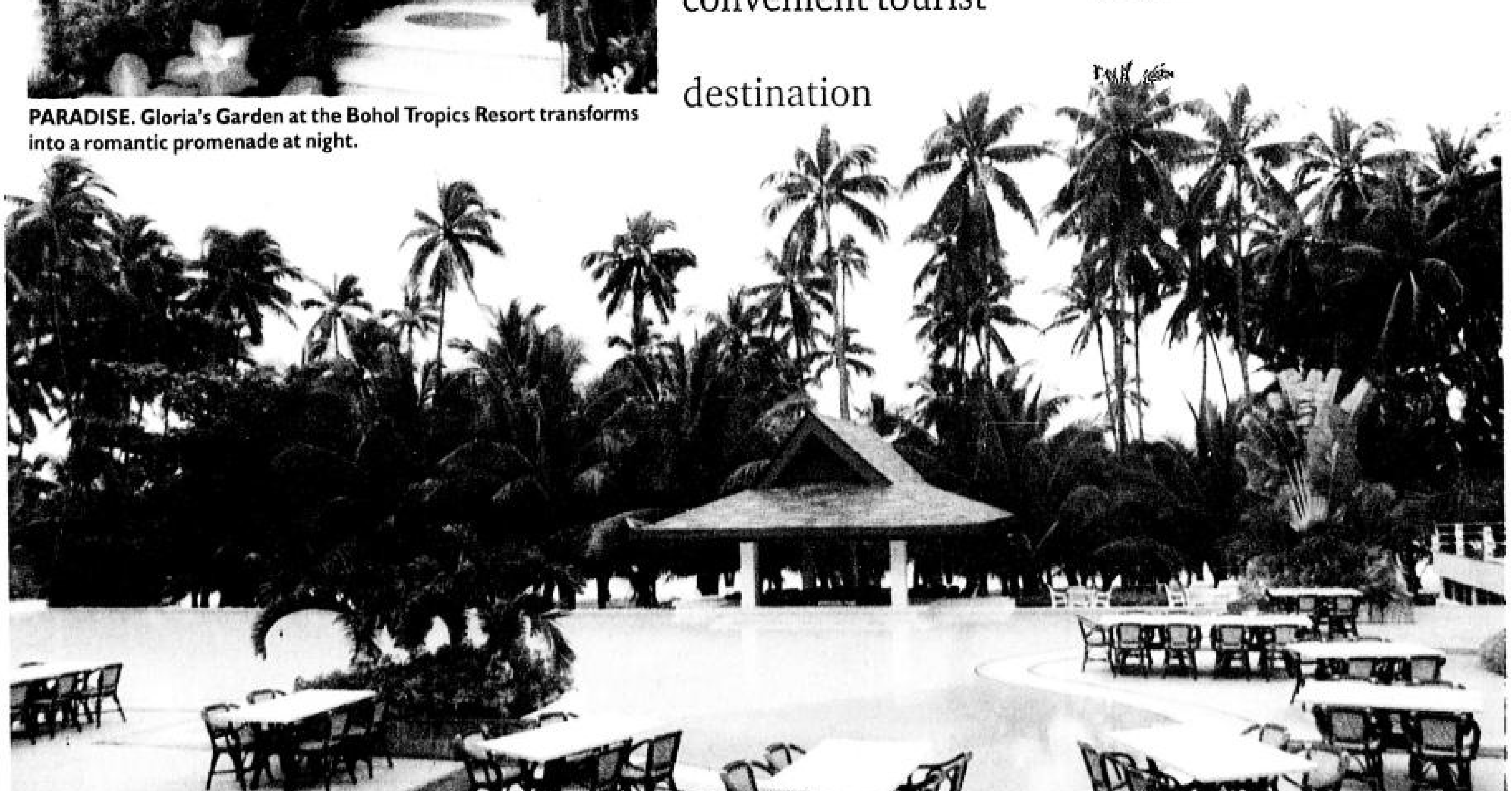
Alona Palm is the result of a longtime dream of the owner. Brunner first visited the country as a backpacker in 1975, and returned every year thereafter without fail. Now a Bohol resident for almost seven years, he admits living here is not without compromises, especially when dealing with the locals. But he's not complaining. "You have to weigh the positive and the negative," he smilingly says.

One of Alona Palm's come-ons is the excellent international cuisine prepared by its German chef. The resort even has a 9-hole mini golf course and an outdoor chess board.

EDEN. The soothing charm of Bohol Beach Club's garden adds to the resort's appeal.

PARADISE. Gloria's Garden at the Bohol Tropics Resort transforms into a romantic promenade at night.

Elite resorts and tropical hotels make the province a convenient tourist destination



PLEASURES. Alona Palm Beach guests can lounge at the pool bar, which affords a relaxing view of the beach.

For those who prefer to stay in the city, there's the Bohol Tropics Resort, which overlooks Tagbilaran Bay. It has all the facilities of big city hotels—a ballroom, a business center, a fitness gym, a tennis court. Emily O. Yap, sales and marketing executive, says the hotel hosts wedding receptions and business conventions.

Business tourists can take a breather at the resort's video/karaoke bar or laser disco/ballroom. Its three restaurants provide options to guests: Chinese cuisine, seafood and grilled, and international fare. The al fresco resto affords a view of the bay.

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She's in love with her married boss

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Some of my relatives said that, like my cousins, I would marry early and not finish college. So I focused on my studies, and turned down all those who courted me. With God's help, I got a degree.

But now I'm nearing 30 and have never had a boyfriend. Worse, I'm falling for my boss, who is married, and I can't seem to fight off the feeling.

I disliked him at first since he made me uncomfortable with all the attention he was showering me. I avoided him, but he persisted. Then I noticed I had begun liking him. He is thoughtful, intelligent, humble and a gentleman.

While my friends in the office seem tickled by what's happening, they also often remark about what a wonderful husband he is to his wife, obviously to remind me I shouldn't have a relationship with him.

I fear God and do not want to come between my boss and his wife. But the more he shows special attention to me, I can't help falling more in love with him. What will I do?

ERIKA

I agree with what your friends imply: This situation can turn ugly if you give in. And I'm glad you haven't.

You may have shown your boss enough to encourage him to continue giving you special attention, but it's not enough to prod him to act more boldly. Proof is, he hasn't explicitly proposed to you.

He must have believed, however, that, given the opportunity, he could make you take the plunge. So, be sure to avoid being alone with him.

Your boss has a good marriage, and you have a healthy conscience. It would be a shame if his marriage breaks up, and it could be an unbearable load on your conscience should you be responsible for that break. So this is a choice between having a romance with him and having peace of mind.

If you want to be wise rather than romantic, then you'd leave that office. Moving away could also help you define the feelings he has for you. If he doesn't pursue you, it could mean that much of his attraction to you was only inspired by his convenience and your accessibility. If he pursues you, and persists for an exceptional period of time, then he could be serious. (But that would be another story, and you may write me again if that happens.)

It would help if you determine how much a role your age and your being unattached this long play in this.

Though you've had suitors before, this may be the first time you're seriously courted by a man who knows quite well how. He may be a good suitor but you know he's not the right man.

It is possible you are in love only with the process of courtship, or with being in love, but not in love with the man. And is it possible that your nearing 30 is making you panic and grab at whatever outbound trip is available?

Being 30 or 40 does not mean you have only the last trip to catch. If you could attract your boss, that means you're still attractive at your age and your beauty would keep for a long time. So don't rush, particularly not to the ride your boss may offer. By all indications, it's going nowhere but to Mistress Town.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI office.

Pinoy products and services in mall exhibit

FILIPINO product manufacturers and non-governmental organizations are showcased at Legacy 2003 at the Glorietta Mall in Makati City until Feb. 16. The exhibit features Filipino arts, crafts, food and clothing, aside from the works of artists Juan Sajid, Fernando Catague, Benjie Reyes, Carol Tanjutco and the Paete Carvers Association. High-quality and one-of-a-kind wares from tribal, urban and rural communities are also sold.

The exhibit and mini-exposition provides Filipino artists, artisans and manufacturers a venue to market their wares. Legacy 2003 also features agencies offering marketing development assistance, such as the DLSU University System Caucus on Poverty Reduction, Mirant Philippines Foundation, Dairy Development Foundation and Upland Marketing Foundation.

"CIRCUS" Yellow with a deep red edge. Circus has a high petal count and is a fabulously full opener offering consumers seven to 10 days of vase life. Stems are typically 16 to 28 inches in length.

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"AVALANCHE" A blue ribbon winner at SAF's 2002 Outstanding Varieties Competition. Avalanche has a high petal count and opens fully. Consumers can expect vase life to exceed 14 days.

"SWEET UNIQUE" This creamy rose has striking dark pink petal edges and a high petal count, so it opens beautifully. heads are large and stems are typically 20 to 28 inches.

"LOLLY POP" This coral sunset variety is recognized for its lengthy stems (24 to 32 inches) extended vase life of 14 to 16 days, and delicate fragrance.

"SUPER GREEN" A superior vase life of 16 to 18 days makes this bright citrus-lime blossom an incredible value for consumers. Stem length ranges from 21 to 32 inches.

"RED INTUITION" An exceptional Valentine's Day red color is accented by dark, almost black, stripes in this amazing, large-headed variety. Stem length ranges from 24 to 31 inches

"PACIFIC BLUE" This rose's soft lavender edge opens to a lovely lilac hue. And with large heads, long stems (21 to 32 inches) and a 12-to 14- day vase life Pacific Blue will be wonderful for Valentine's Day arrangements.

"FLAMENCO" A golden yellow rose with flaming red edges, Flamenco captivates attention and offers eight to 10 days of vase life.

"HOCUS POCUS" This deep red, almost black rose is marked with flecks of yellow for a truly captivating presentation. Vase life is seven to 10 days and stems are 16 to 24 inches in length.

"FOREVER YOUNG" Its deep red color, eight to 10 days of case life, and high petal count make this rose perfect for Valentine's Day. Stem length is 24 to 35 inches.

"HALLOWEEN" With a vase life of 14 to 16 days and a lovely antique-mauve color, Halloween will be a hit for Valentine's Day. Stems grow as long as 21 to 32 inches.

"YELLOW ISLAND" Growing atop 24- to 32-inch stems, Yellow Island has a large head and a very pleasing fragrance. Vase life is 10 to 14 days.

"QUEEN AMAZON" With a white base and hot pink edges, this rose is an exceptional beauty. It has a large head and its long stems have very few thorns. Vase life is eight to 10 days.

"EMMA" Delicate and feminine, Emma, a white and blush variety, is a terrific pick for Valentine's day. The stems range in length from 24 to 31 inches and are almost completely free of thorns

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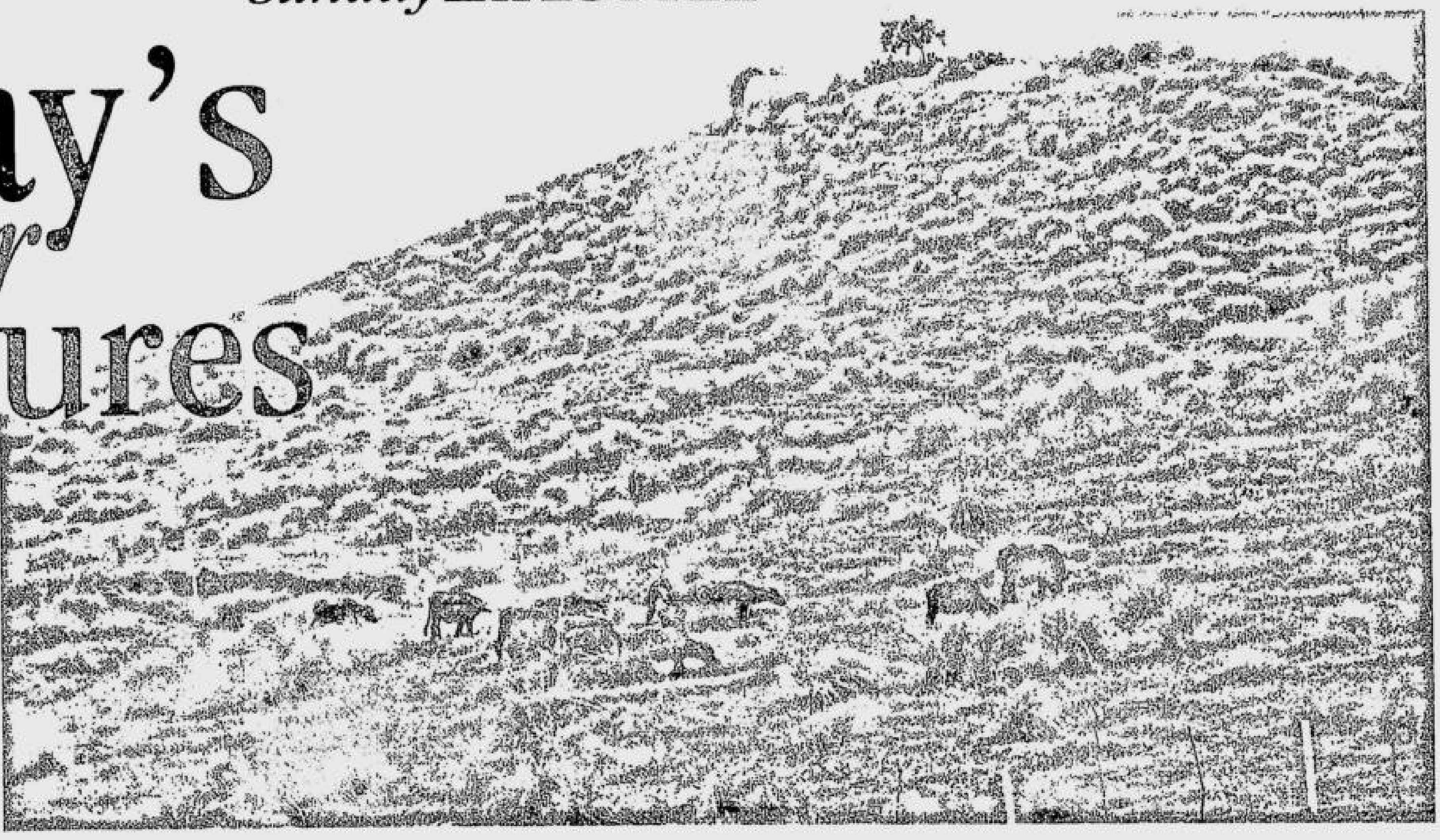
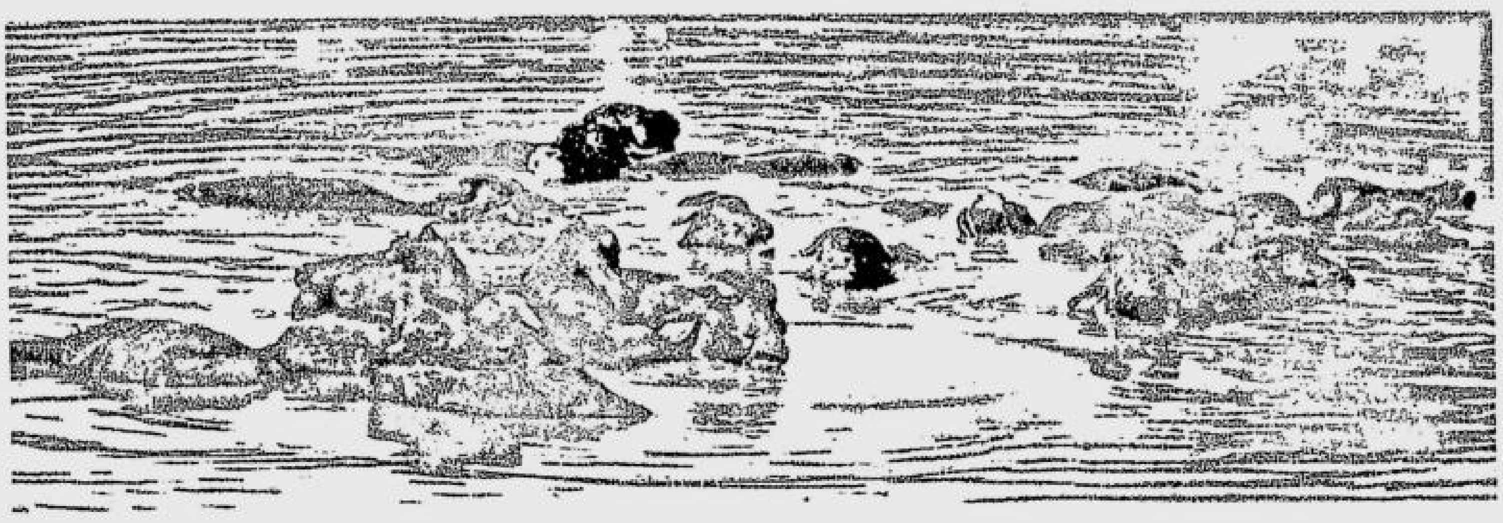
Ubay's *greener* pastures

Ubay's agriculture park has become the center of technological advancements in livestock production

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Joan Bondoc



US MURRAH buffaloes feed on imported pastures from Australia.



PURE-BRED buffaloes take an afternoon dip.

CLOSE to 90 percent of Ubay's 65,000 people is involved in livestock production. So it is not suprising that this unassuming town is home to the country's first and only agriculture park.

Nestled on a sprawling 100-ha land with a picturesque lush, rolling hills that seem to go as far as the eyes can see, the Ubay Agri Park (UAP) represents this town's vision of someday becoming a "science city."

The UAP is a Farmer's Information and Technology Center, a rich source for locals to access up-to-date information and technology in agriculture and natural resources. It aims to improve the lives of everyone in the livestock business—from farmers to traders, processors and entrepreneurs—and boost the town's economy.

Now undergoing more construction, the UAP, once completed, hopes to bring in more recreational tourists with its horse-race track, horse rental facilities, mini forest and zoo, gondola ride, fishing area and rodeo arena.

Ubay is gearing to become the agri-eco tourism destination of Bohol. To lure not only educational tours, which form the bulk of Park visitors, it must come up with more attractions.

Eco farms

The Park houses 17 eco farms, such as forage and ornamental gardens, Bali cattle production, forest trees and fruit trees nurseries, hillside farming, including the Ubay Stock Farm and the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), where cattle for the annual rodeo competition are sourced.

"We have a genetic program where we apply artificial insemination to cross-breed native carabaos with US Murrah buffalo," says PCC center director Dr. Caro Salces. The result is improved meat and milk production. At 600 kg per animal, that's a lot of meat production in one go. The result is also better animals for the rodeo competition. (This year's champion in the carabao race is a crossbreed, which can run as fast as 170 meters in 21 seconds.)

Milk production has also skyrocketed from a mere 1 liter per day to 5, sometimes 8, liters, without sacrificing quality and nutritional content.

PCC is involved in extensive research and development to upgrade carabao quality not only for Ubay but also for the country. The Park is one of PCC's joint projects with the Department of Agriculture, Bohol government, DOST, among a host of other government agencies.

Imported pastures

About 3,600 hectares of the Park is devoted to PCC projects. The land area, says Salces, has been divided into 20 divisions, with each hosting 400 cattle, and every species separated into purebred and native. Among the animals are Bali cattle, Bulgarian buffalo, US Murrah buffalo and Philippine carabao.

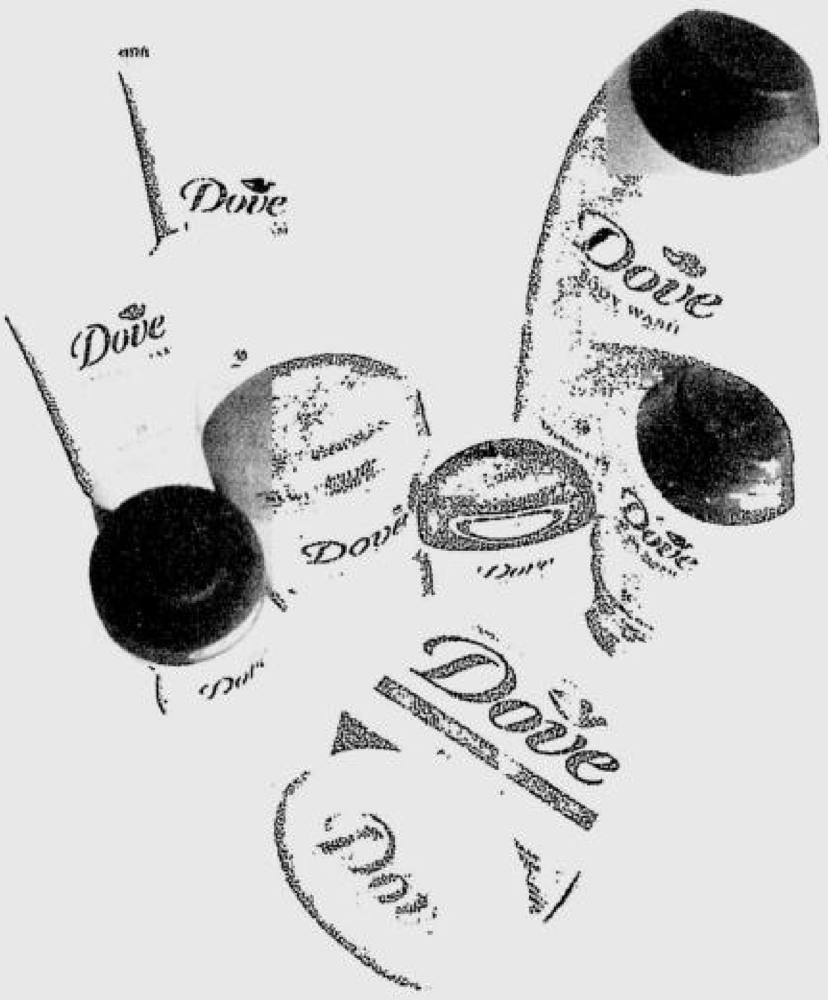
Each division has its own "bathroom," a makeshift mini lagoon where the animals can bathe. To ensure maximum results, even the pasture on which these animals feed on are imported from Australia.

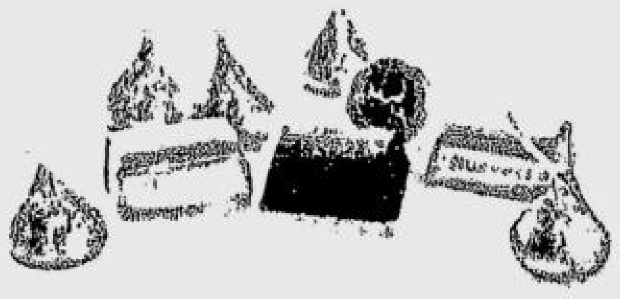
Salces says that for security, four cowboys roam the farm to check on the animals. Not that crime is at the top of Ubay's worries. On the contrary, the crime rate is very low. However, some cattle may wander into another breed's division, so constant monitoring is important.

At the entrance to the Park is a dairy bar and souvenir shop, where produce of the farms are sold. Products range from cara-corned beef to *tapa*, hamburger, fresh cow, goat and carabao milk, white cottage cheese, pastillas de leche, and ornamental and fruit tree seedlings.

"The painstaking research is already benefiting some farmers in its own small way," says Salces. He concedes PCC still has a long way to go in terms of aiding farmers, but for now the future looks bright for this town.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph





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German couple paints different picture of RP for Europeans

By Alex Y. Vergara

THE SUN Apartelle is perhaps no different from the hundreds of resort hotels that dot the province of Bohol. Nestled on Panglao Island, the complex has eight peach-colored studio-type apartments, each with its own kitchen and bathroom.

A huge kidney-shaped swimming pool sits at the center of the property just above a cave, whose jagged parts are very much evident, imparting a rustic feel to the area. So what sets the place apart from the rest?

The Sun Apartelle is owned and managed not by Filipinos, but by German couple Boris and Irena Heberer. After being lured to the Philippines 10 years ago, particularly Bohol's famous diving sites, the sun-loving pair made it a point to visit the country at least twice a year.

"I've always wanted to live in a warm country," said Irena. "We both love the sea and nature, so we came as often as we could to the Philippines. This country has a lot of problems, but Bohol is probably an exception. The island is perfect."

Boris, who was in Manila when we talked to Irena, was unable to share his insights. Dressed in a sleeveless white blouse and beige pencil skirt, the shapely Irena had just had another encounter with a Philippine cobra, not in the garden, mind you, but in their bedroom. Her workers took it out later.

Nature's surprises

"I was scared not for myself, but for my cat Peterly," she said. "It was my second time to see one. You come across such surprises when you live close to nature."

After several visits to the Philippines, the Heberers quit their jobs, packed their bags and left Germany for good five years ago. Believe it or not, they haven't left the Philippines since, not even to visit friends and family in Germany. Boris, a photographer, used to run a printing business, while Irena was a marketing executive for IBM.

The Heberers bought a modest property adjacent to a Swiss couple's on Panglao. When the Swiss abandoned their plans of settling in Bohol, they sold their land to the Heberers.

"Suddenly we were left with more land than we could handle," said Irena. "Since we were too young to retire, we decided to invest all our money in the resort business." Thus, Sun Apartelle was born a little over two years ago.

The resort used to cater to more foreign tourists before the Abu Sayyaf struck. With several Germans among those kidnapped by the bandit group in neighboring Sipadan, Malaysia, the Philippines again made the headlines abroad but for the wrong reasons.

Giving wrong impression

"I was very angry at the German media," Irena recalled. "They painted a very different picture of the Philippines. It was as if the entire country was in trouble. Don't they know that unlike Germany, this is a country composed of thousands of islands?"

Business has started to pick up, thanks to a healthy mix of local and foreign guests, who stay an average of three to five days. Many Europeans make the most of their vacations, staying at Sun Apartelle for almost a month.

"The best promotion is through word of mouth," she said. "Not a few of our European guests learned about Bohol from other Europeans who stayed here. Many of our German friends, including Boris' mother, have come to visit."

The Heberers have no reason to regret their decision to settle in the country. Aside from the warm weather, Irena relishes living amid sun, sea and trees, several of them quite old. In fact, Filipino friends have warned them good-naturedly not to buy a property surrounded by old trees, lest they encounter a "white lady."

"Of course, a white lady lives here," she says with a grin as she points to herself. "But seriously, we feel perfectly safe in the Philippines."

Running an apartelle is a 24-hour, seven-day affair. The only thing Irena regrets is not having enough time to engage in her favorite pastime: diving. "We all need a little dip in the water every now and then."

For inquiries, call Sun Apartelle at (038) 502-9063.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

IRENA Heberer with cat Christmas

SUN Apartelle's pool and picnic area

PHOTOS: JOAN BONDOC

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SWIMMING pool amid a lush garden setting

Tourists have been arriving steadily, thanks to direct flights to Cebu from Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Taipei and Seoul

Bohol beckons

From page E1

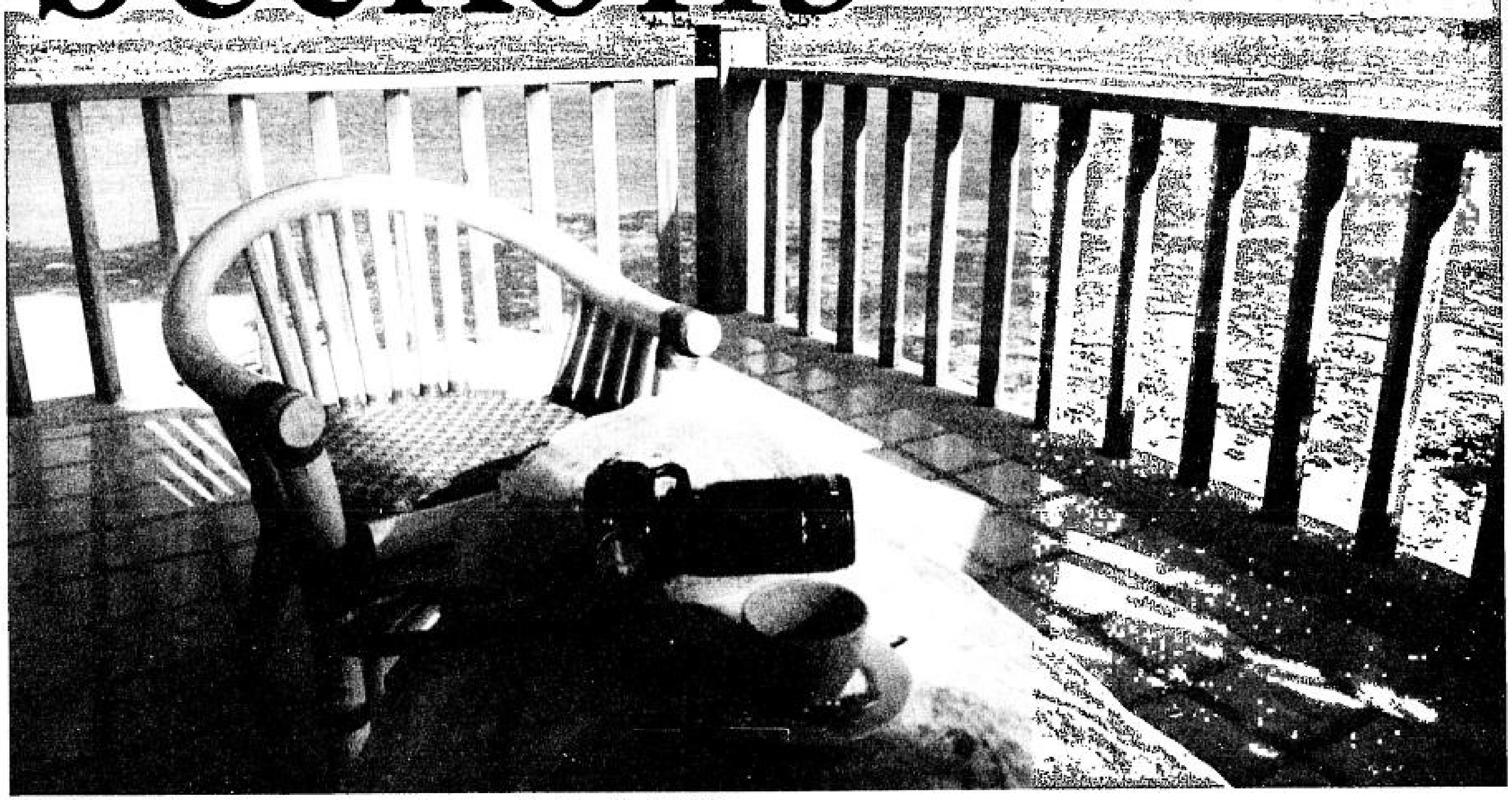
sort off the coast of Palawan, and this similarity isn't lost on most of PINR's guests. The landscaped resort has a winding jogging path that leads to 48 rooms, 18 of which are bungalows that open out to the sea.

See-through bathrooms

Each bungalow comes with a heated Jacuzzi and combines such elements as wood, stone, glass and *nipa*. In lieu of a ceiling, a network of twisted wood supports a pointed *nipa* roof. As if the sprawling wooden veranda facing the sea isn't enough for communing with nature, each cottage has a glass-walled bathroom that lets the outside in. Of course, the less daring can always draw the curtains during private moments.

Architect Socorro Atega and interior designer Gerald Monreal worked on such details as the custom-built wood and rattan furniture pieces, blinds made of *arorog* sticks and broken twigs that double as towel hooks. Distressed walls are painted in egg yolk yellow thus giving each room added cheer.

Apart from the standard creature comforts in every room, the resort offers a whole range of recreational facilities, including a swimming pool, fitness gym, pool bar services and facilities for mountain biking, snorkeling, diving, kayaking and windsurfing. The Ongs plan to add a sports club in the future.



OPEN-AIR veranda overlooking a white-sand beach and the blue, blue Bohol Sea

"It would have been more profitable if we had built a high-rise building," said Frederick, "but we weren't sure how many floors to build. If ever we decide to build one, it should be high enough to enable our guests to get a good view of the sea."

Staying at a world-class resort like PINR doesn't come cheap. Superior and deluxe rooms can set guests back by as much as $125 and $170 a night, respectively. Each bungalow, whether for single or twin occupancy, costs $200. Families will have to add $30 more per person. The resort, however, offers promotional rates and group packages depending on the season.

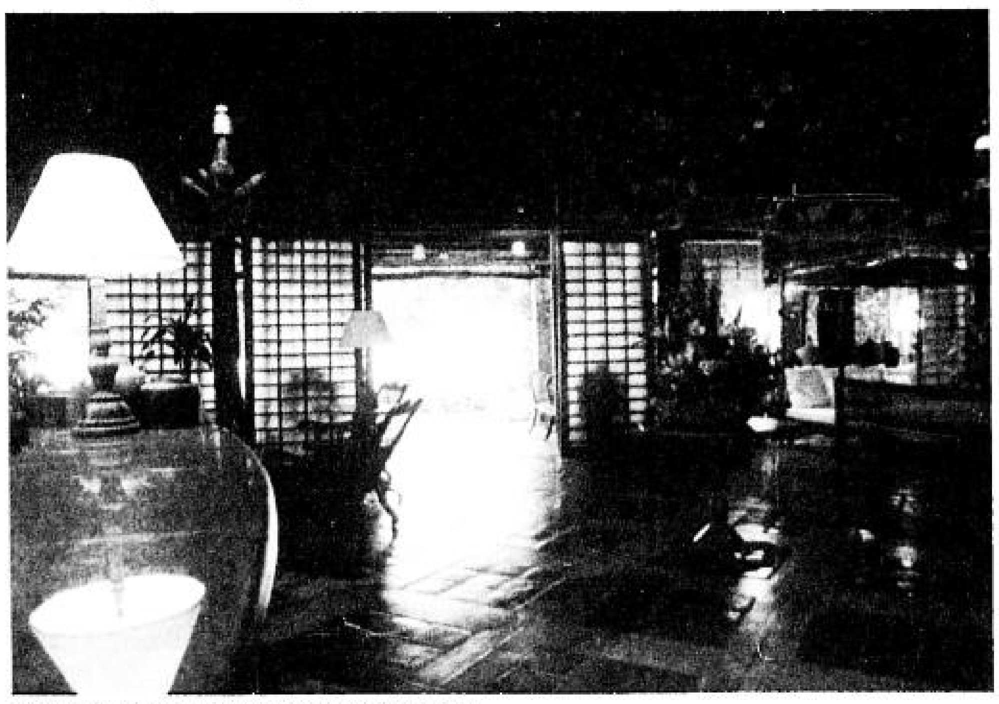
"We have an excellent product," said Frederick, "and we have decided to price it a bit higher than the others for the simple reason that we want to maintain our image of exclusivity." Even the pristine view of sky and sea comes with a steep price.

For more inquiries, visit PINR's website at www.panglaoisland.com or call its Manila office at 724-1051

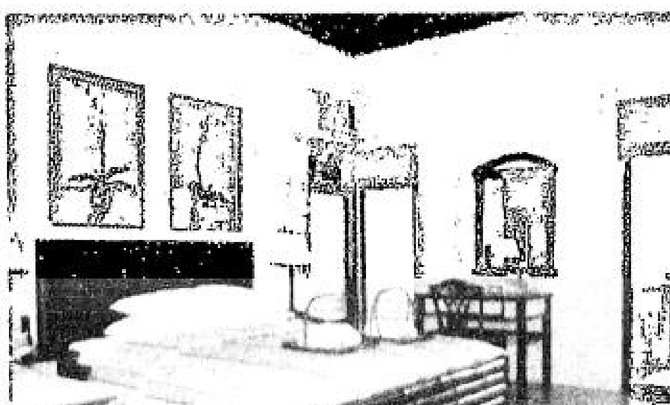
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

FREDERICK and Barbara Ong

ALEX VERGARA



ECLECTIC and rustic influences in the lobby.



GLIMPSE the sky and the sea everywhere, including the rooms.

BICYCLE lane doubles as jogging path that leads to the bungalows with distressed walls and *nipa* roofing

EDDIE Villarama, Stella Lopez, Juvie Yupangco, Adrian Ocampo and Isabel Wilson

CHING Montinola, Ambassador to the UK Cesar Bautista, Nene Quimson, Menchu Concepcion and Dick Romulo

Wedding renews ties of two countries

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

AT 7 P.M., in one of the Philippines' grandest architectural marvels, the magnificent all-steel Church of San Sebastian, **Maria Cristina Montinola Romulo** married handsome **Abel Nolasco** of Mexico, renewing ties between the two countries that date back 500 years.

The bride was beautiful in a white strapless satin gown designed by **Inno Sotto**. It was trailed by a long train embroidered with crystals while her white veil was held in place by a simple tiara.

Primary sponsors were President Macapagal-Arroyo, Marilou Araneta Senn, Margie Tambunting, Nene Quimson, Menchu Katigbak, former ambassador to Spain Johnny Rocha, Jomari Chan, Dick Romulo, Carl Ottiger and Mustaffa Issa.

Federico Pintos, the groom's cousin, and **Jeffrey Purhman** from Texas shared honors as best men.

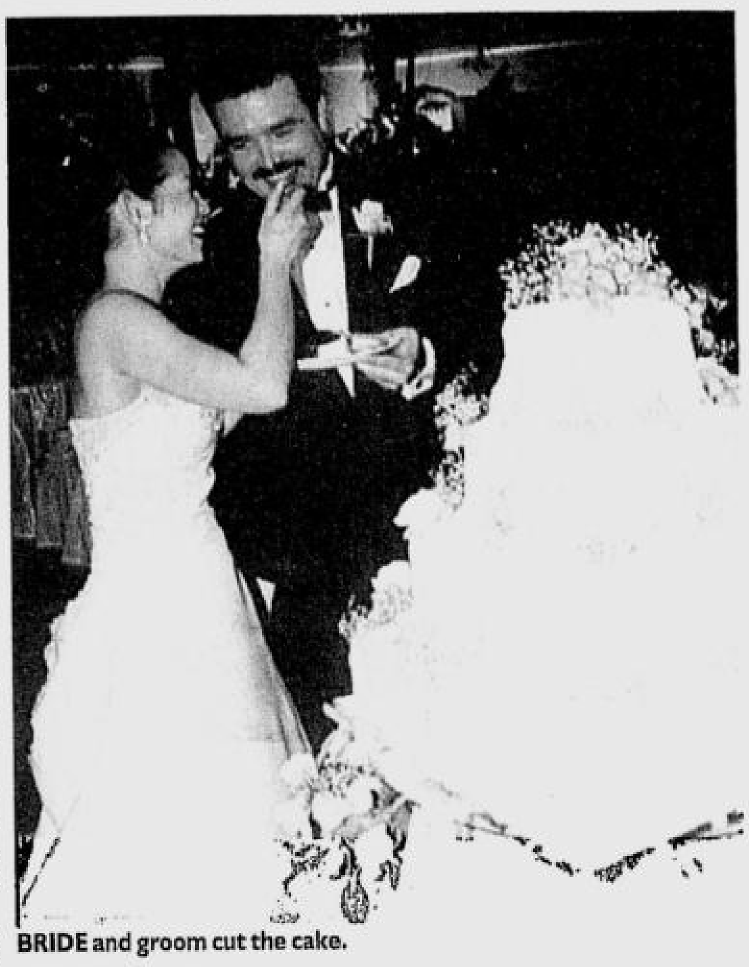
Secondary sponsors were the groom's sister **Teresa Nolasco, Dana Sarasola, Melissa Westcott, Anton Romulo, Luisito Senn** and **Charlie Carmona.**

Raymond Lauchengo and **Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo's** rendition of the Our Father was a highlight of the ceremony outstanding in its simplicity and the fact that it went by the clock.

At the restored National Museum, a mariachi band in the marble hall greeted splendid creatures like **Josie Lichauco**, the best ambassador that never was, unfortunately, and **Paz Yuchengco, Pilina Rocha, Maricris Vasquez Prada, Conchita Toda, Jojo Sabarte, Josie Sy, Chari Aboitiz** and sister **Amalie Azanza** and others of that ilk and stripe, with red and white wine for everyone and little dainties prepared by wildly creative **Gaita Fores.**

The father of the bride, **Roberto Romulo,** had taken a hand in the seating arrangement himself, making sure everyone at the table had someone they knew. But it wasn't difficult since it was one of those occasions when the Old Guards put on their glad rags and everyone knew everyone else.

Before dinner, he toasted the newlyweds but paid particular tribute to the wonderful mother of the bride, **Olivia**, modest and unassuming but a woman of substance.



BRIDE and groom cut the cake.

Dinner was served in the open courtyard of the National Museum, with 30 tables each for 10 set out under the stars. There were Chilean salmon and cucumber noodles paired with cilantro pesto. In tribute to the groom's Mexican background, Hyatt presented chipotle chutney and blackened tomato tortilla soup with avocado and sour cream.

Among the perfumed pack at the wedding were the **Aboitizes**, who came all the way from Cebu; **Andy** and **Vicky Soriano**, splendid in red crepe and rubies; **Sam Eduque**, in a black gown that was barely there; **Bledes Fores, Nene** and **Stella Araneta, Bomboy** and **Baby Araneta, Neny** and **Mandy Eduque; Junior Tambunting**, who came solo since Nancy was under the weather; and former ambassador to the UK, brother **Chuching** and **Marge Tambunting; Bel Wilson, Mert Loinaz** sans **Javier, Pilina** and **Juan Rocha** and Ambassador **Cesar Bautista.**

Not famous for answering RSVPs, **Stella Hermano**, the bride's aunt, was frantically calling up to remind everyone of the special day, but, really, no one had to be reminded. It was a private party, that *rara avis* in Manila filled nightly with charity affairs for good causes, of 300 of Manila's swellest swells, without a politician in sight, thank God.

So, was it a good party? No, it was a great one, with the orchestra playing all night for the diehards till three in the morning

(SEATED) Ana Olondriz, Baby and Bomboy Araneta, Jon Aboitiz; (standing) Tony Climent, Henry and Jojo Zabarte, Mari Burao, Junior Tambunting, Chari Aboitiz, Maurice Arcache, Amelie and Ramon Azanza

ROBERTO Romulo

ENDIKA Aboitiz

PEPING and Chloe Periquet

RAMON and Josie Sy

NENE, Stella and Bomboy Araneta

MEXICAN Ambassador Enrique and Mariana Hubbard

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Irene Santiago
Mindanao Commission on Women
121 University Avenue, Juna Subdivision, Davao City
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Tel/Fax: (082) 298-40-31

All entries must be submitted before March 8, 2003.

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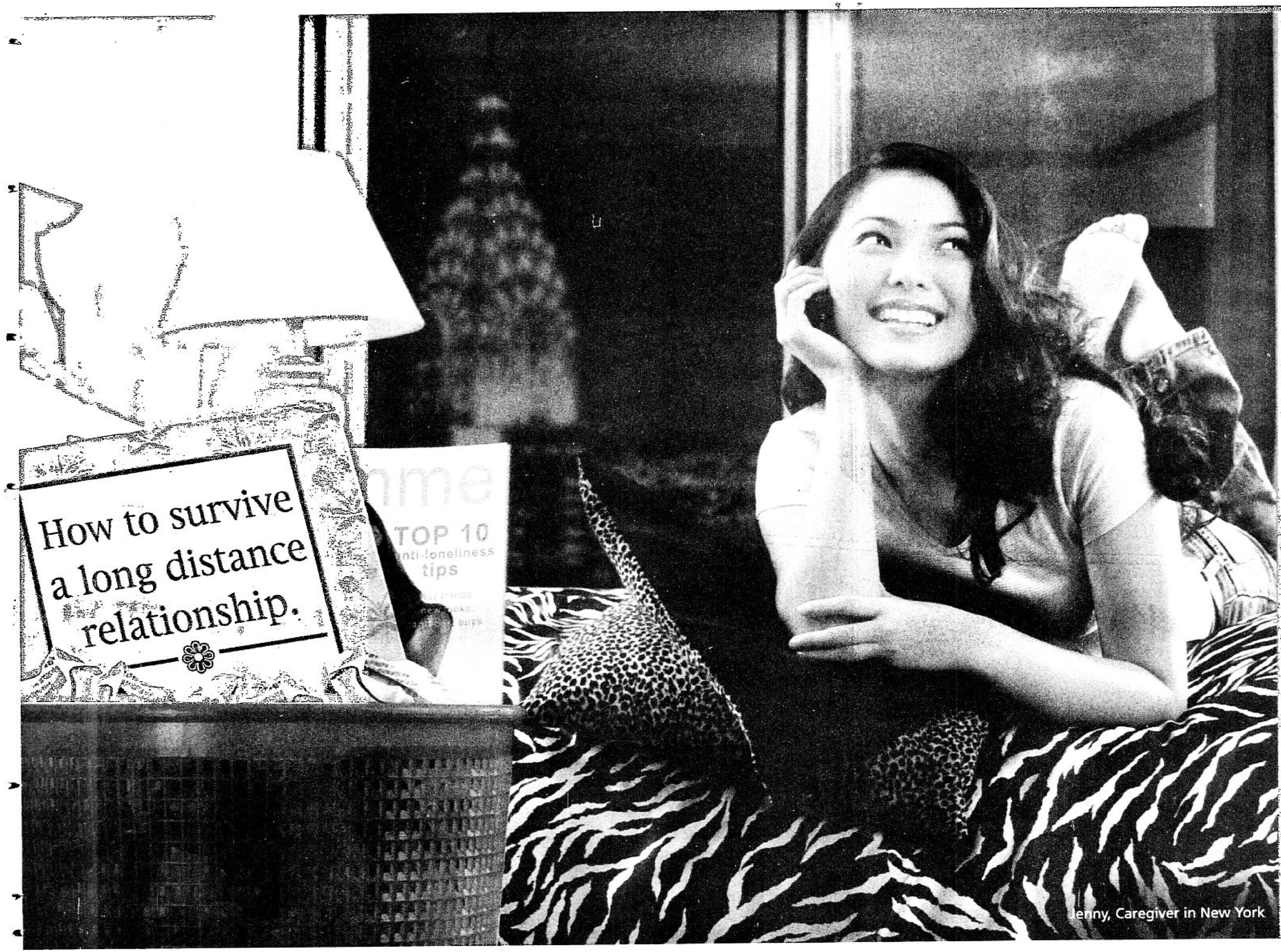

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

THE AWARD-WINNING Loboc Children's Choir will soon be squaring off with another famous young group, the Vienna Boys' Choir.

Angelic voices bring fame to Bohol town

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Joan Bondoc

FOR ABOUT TWO decades now, angelic voices have been spreading the good word about Bohol. The voices do not come from the centuries-old churches that dot the island province but from a modest public school in one of its municipalities.

The Loboc Children's Choir has brought both fame and honor to the island province almost from the time of its inception. Composed of Grades IV to VI pupils of the Loboc Central Elementary School and a smattering of high school freshmen, the choir has won in competitions, performed overseas and been invited to do concerts for exclusive audiences.

The choir was recently in San Jose, Negros Oriental, to perform for family and friends of a couple to celebrate the husband's recent retirement from his job. Arranged by the wife as a surprise for him, she paid all the expenses for bringing the 30-member choir, its musical director and pianist, to her home in San Jose.

Extra special

It was just one of several such invitations the choir has received. Earlier, it also reportedly caught the ear of a foreign ambassador to the Philippines, who arranged for it to do a performance in Manila, and the wife of a prominent businessman, who also paid for the entire group's plane fare for a show also in Manila.

What makes the choir's achievement extra special is that it does not have some profes-

ANGELIC/ F2

A DOME ceiling gives the altar area of the Loboc church a distinctive look.

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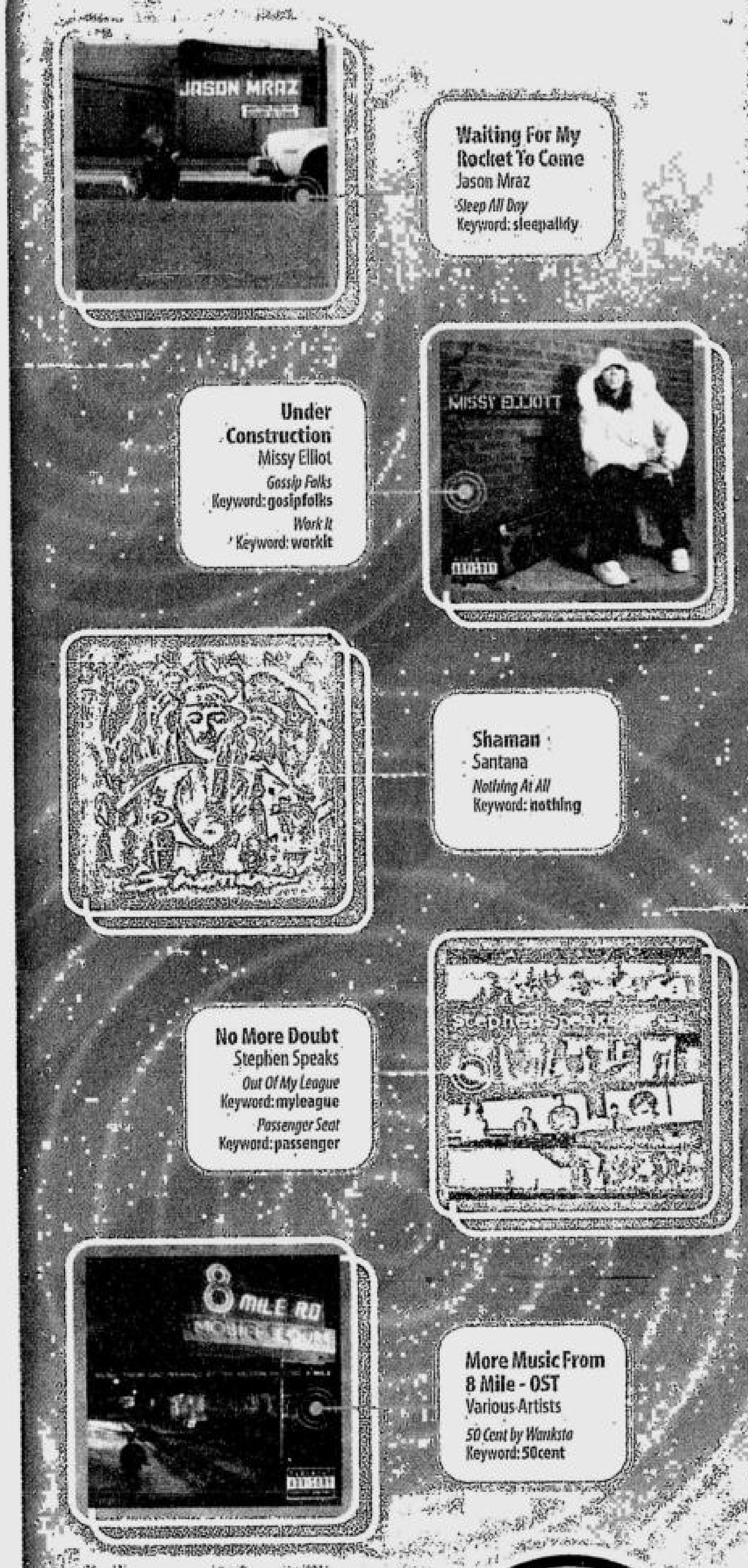

Simply making waves

Waiting For My Rocket To Come
Jason Mraz
Sleep All Day
Keyword: sleepallday

Under Construction
Missy Elliot
Gossip Folks
Keyword: gosipfolks
Work It
Keyword: workit

Shaman
Santana
Nothing At All
Keyword: nothing

No More Doubt
Stephen Speaks
Out Of My League
Keyword: myleague
Passenger Seat
Keyword: passenger

More Music From 8 Mile - OST
Various Artists
50 Cent by Wanksta
Keyword: 50cent

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Jennifer Lopez
5 Josh Groban
Josh Groban
6 It Had To Be You... The Great American Songbook
Rod Stewart
7 Come Away With Me
Norah Jones
8 Only Selfless Love 2
Various Artists
9 Prelude: Best Of Charlotte Church
10 Shaman
Santana
keyword: nothing
11 Let Go
Avril Lavigne
12 Piolo
Piolo Pascual
13 Flower Drum Song - OST
Various Artists
14 Under Construction
Missy Elliot
keyword: gosipfolks workit
15 Room For Squares: Limited Edition
John Mayer
16 You Had Me At Hello
Various Artists
17 Beyond Words: Music Of Gary Valenciano
Various Artists
18 Daylight
Duncan Sheik
keyword: onahigh
19 Lady Sings The Blues
Various Artists
20 Waiting For My Rocket To Come
Jason Mraz
keyword: sleepallday
21 More Music From 8 Mile - OST
Eminem
keyword: 50cent
22 Masters Of Chant Chapter III
Gregorian
23 Hijas Del Tomate
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keyword: laspayas ketzupsong
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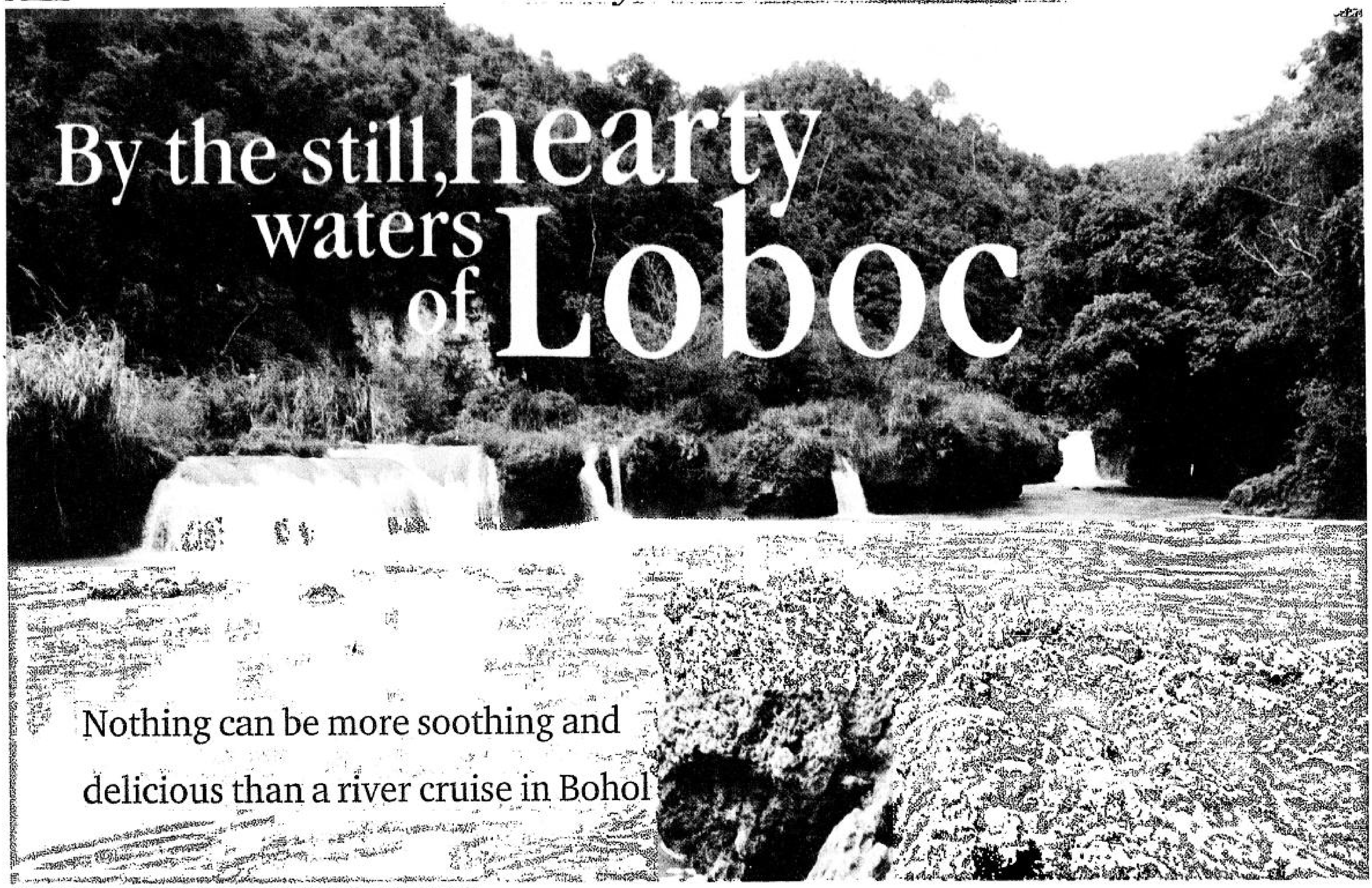
By the still, hearty waters of Loboc

Nothing can be more soothing and delicious than a river cruise in Bohol



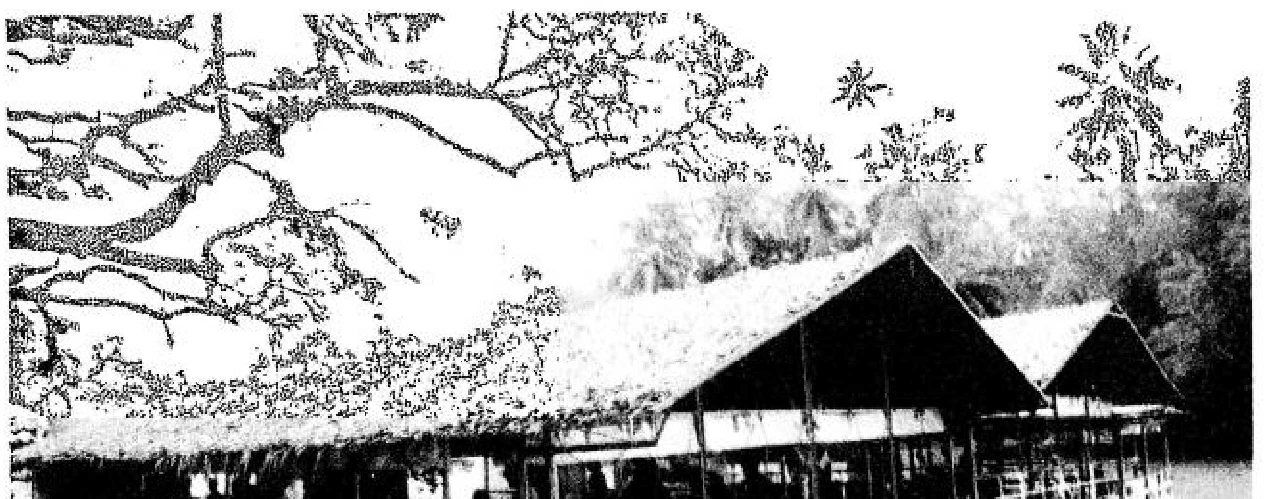
HEADING upstream, the cruise makes a brief stop at the Busay waterfalls.

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Joan Bondoc

IN LOBOC, Bohol, where time is measured not by the harried ticking of the clock but rather by the rhythmic motions of the day, a relaxing meal on a cruise is a lazy afternoon well spent. The cool, gentle breeze brushes against your body. You warm to the sight of thriving greens and fluvial plants that line the riverbank. You are serenaded by the sound of gushing waterfalls. Nothing is more soothing to the mind and spirit than a river cruise on tranquil waters in this unspoiled province of the Visayas.

It was in 1989 when the then police investigator Raymond Cal found himself taking tourists, mostly Taiwanese, on a ride in his modest pumpboat along Loboc River to see the Busay waterfalls. Perhaps the word was passed around afterward so that foreigners started pouring into the province. Cal's enterprising instinct was provoked. Besides, Cal had always been drawn to the Loboc river's still waters even as a child, frequently plying the river to relax or fish. Why not make money from his favorite pastime?

He observed that his guests usually brought with them food during the trip and made use of the very little space in his pumpboat as a makeshift dining table. Suddenly, he saw a vision—of a boat big enough for tourists to dine and enjoy the ride.



MEALS ON A CRUISE. Two vessels of the Loboc River Cruise wait for passengers.

But Cal lacked the mechanics. When the town celebrated its annual fluvial parade, his dream began to take shape.

Inspiration

He took his inspiration from the huge boats that joined the fluvial parade and went to work. He started designing his floating restaurant.

Not that engineering was alien to this commerce graduate. Cal says he has always been a voracious reader of engineering and mechanical books and magazines, so it wasn't hard for him to design a durable and safe vessel.

In 1991 Cal finished a prototype, kept afloat by many barrels. A local restaurant took care of his guests' meals.

Not content with the boat's performance, he finally constructed his dream floating resto in 1992 by using marine plywood instead of barrels. For safety, the two, long plywoods are air-tight with five compartments. Should the plywood crack, water would not rush into the entire float.

"It is important to prioritize your passengers' safety," Cal says. That some guests might not know how to swim is a given, but the river, while seemingly languid and harmless, averages from at least 17 feet to five fathoms deep.

Today, the pioneer of the floating restaurant industry in sleepy Loboc owns and manages five boats. A new one is coming out this month in anticipation of more tourists sweeping into the province.

Known as the Loboc River Cruise (Floating Restaurants and River Cruise), Cal faces competitors who have copied his idea.

Still, his business stands out by occasionally because of innovations. For instance, *nipa* is used instead of galvanized iron as roof to keep the heat away, especially during smoldering summer days. And, his is the only restaurant that features a local band that can dish out any tune, from the classic standards to Bohol folk songs and Ricky Martin Latin pop music.

'Lutong bahay'

Cal also did away with catering and hired five cooks. The floating resto's first operation starts during lunch, and a buffet spread of Boholano *lutong bahay* is for the taking. Eat all you can of grilled fish, *sinigang na hipon*, *tortang talong*, native *adobong manok*, *adobong* carabeef, chopsuey, pork barbecue, fresh fruits and cucumber salad.

Guests may also request for meals of their choice. For now, meals are prepared and cooked on land, but Cal is working on a new design that integrates a kitchen and a toilet on the boat.

Each vessel accommodates up to 40 guests. Should they opt not to have a meal, boat rental is P800, with an additional P20 per head is charged for a group exceeding 15 passengers. For dining tourists, food prices range from P75 to P300 per head, depending on the menu, and exclusive of boat rental.

The 3-km tour takes between 45 minutes to an hour. Cal says that for exclusive tours,. a maximum of two hours is allowed for guests to go swimming at the waterfalls. The guest must sign a waiver in order to swim in the river.

Since the launch of the aggressive tourism campaign of the Department of Tourism and the local government, Cal says Filipino tourists have grown in number. Asian visitors have decreased. Now, the foreign tourists are dominated by Caucasians.

Business is looking up for this 50-year-old man, now serving as the town's councilor. "I think I'm just lucky to have come upon this business by chance," he says.

Call (038) 537-9195/9051/5503 for reservations

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Angelic voices bring fame to Bohol town

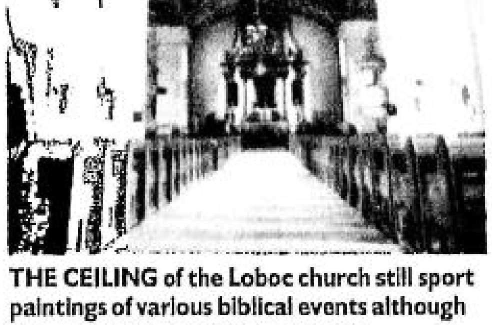
From page F1

sionally trained director helping it go through its paces. Everything it has accomplished it owes to Alma Taldo, a Grade V teacher of English and Music who has had charge of the group since it was organized in 1980. Taldo says she only relies on what she learned in a six-unit Music course as a student at the Cebu Normal College and natural aptitude.

She is assisted by pianist Lina Jala, a Grade VI Music teacher from the Triple Union Elementary School.

The choir's formidable reputation was built over the years of winning in contests beginning with its third place finish in the 1980 national finals of the National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya). It received first place honors in 1993 and repeated the feat in 1995. The group was national champion again in the biennial competition in 2001.

That Loboc has produced a group of musical prodigies does not seem surprising to other Bol-anons. People in the town, which has some of the province's interesting tourist attractions like a lovely centuries-old church and a river cruise on a floating restaurant that ends in a waterfall (it also has one of the most grotesque monuments to the folly of the martial law era, a partially built bridge that seems to have been designed to go over the church), have a reputation for being musically inclined. Almost everyone reportedly plays a musical instrument or sings.

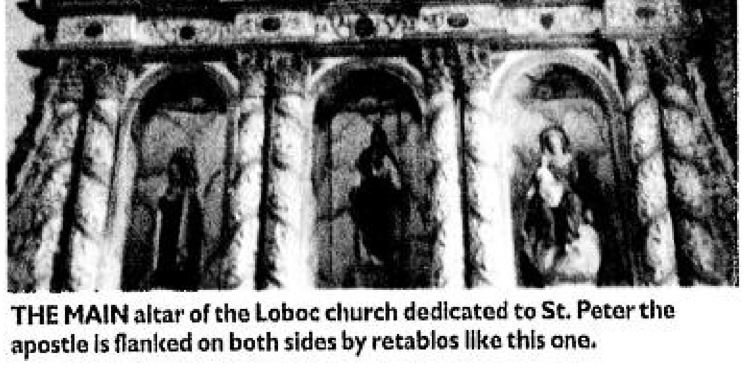


THE CEILING of the Loboc church still sport paintings of various biblical events although the walls have been painted clean.

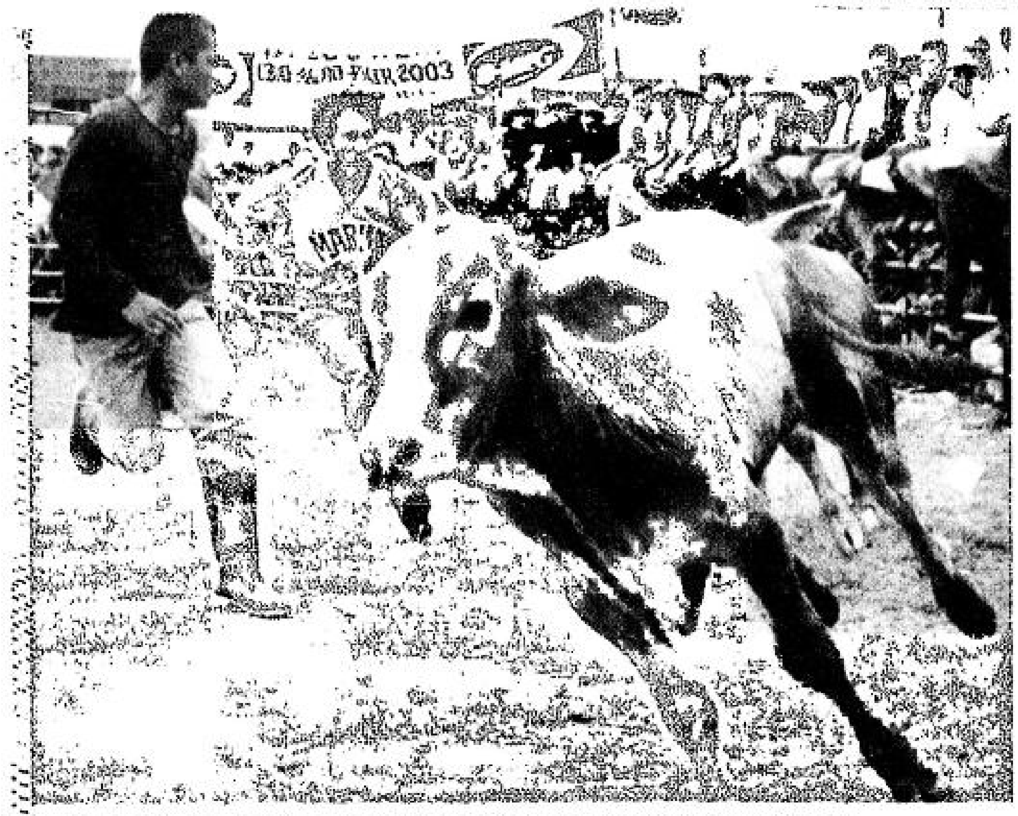
The Loboc Children's Choir will perform with the Vienna Boys Choir in Austria

Taldo says members of the choir are selected by conducting auditions every year of interested, mainly Grade IV, pupils. Some Grade III pupils also participate. Selected members generally stay on until they reach Grade VI. Some first-year high-school students enrolled in Loboc can remain members provided the work does not interfere with their studies and their voices still have not changed much.

The group, which has been on a concert tour of the United States and represented the Philippines in the International Culture and Arts Festival in Shenzhen, China, among others, is now getting ready for a back-to-back performance in September with the Vienna Boys' Choir in Austria arranged by that country's ambassador. With the Vienna group now accepting foreign members, will a Loboc boy or boys be singing soon with Austria's famous choir?



THE MAIN altar of the Loboc church dedicated to St. Peter the apostle is flanked on both sides by retablos like this one.



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN. Running after a wild cub is a task best left to the pros.

EASY, BOY! This team prepares to bound the restless calf.

Gung-ho over rodeo

From page F4

executed, such as turning the calf's neck in the right direction—meaning, an almost 180-degree turn—during bull dogging to force it to drop to the ground.

While rodeo looks horribly brutal, Salces said it is vital that local folks learn the skills to avoid hurting themselves and the animals. There are techniques involved, and all are supposedly safe to both human and animal.

Skills, said Salces, involves strength, agility, endurance and patience. After all, a 160- to 200-pound wild animal preparing to make that infamous, raging-bull pounce will turn ugly if the cowboy is ill-prepared. Not to worry, though, as the animals always pounce on a straight direction. A swift move of the torso sideways does the trick.

Team work

To weaken the animal's defenses, cowboys must insert their hands into the animal's mouth, near the center of the jaw where no teeth grow, and grab the ears and tails. This is where teamwork comes in, especially useful during carambola.

Four teams composed of four members each were pitted against each other. As soon as the cubs were released from their fences, cowboys ran after their choice animal or, in most cases, the nearest animal that scurried along their path.

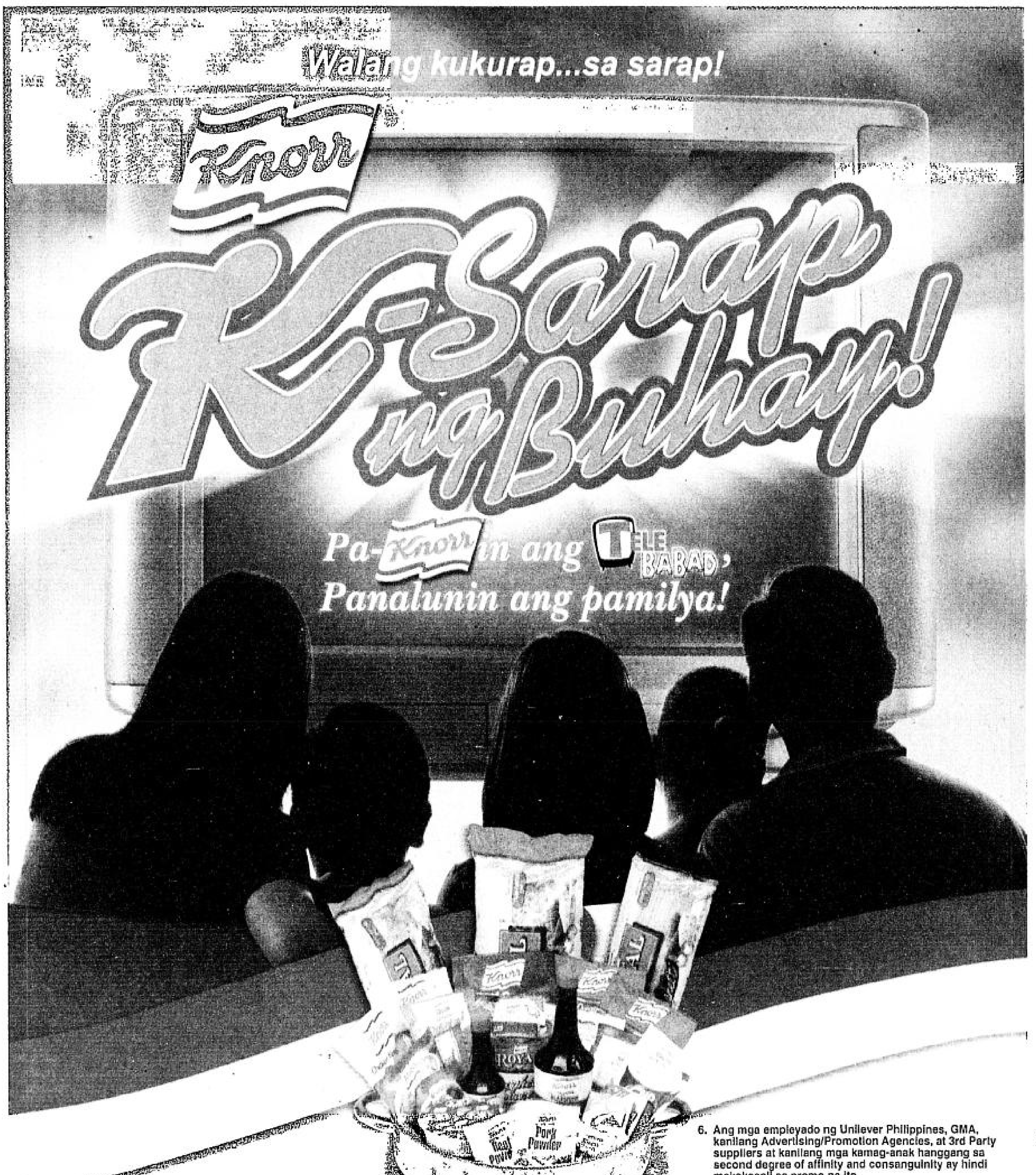
"There should be a tailman assigned to grab the tail, and a headman to work on the calf's mouth," Salces said. The rest, she added, can help keep the animal still. When the calf falls down after a chilling vision of its neck twisted to the opposite direction, the headman does the unthinkable to the uninitiated eyes. He sits on the animal's head, making sure it's still properly twisted, while his teammates grab hold of the legs to tie them up—with the correct knot, of course, lest the animal escapes.

"Ubay's vision is to become the Visayas-wide cattle and rodeo capital," Salces said. To put the rodeo event on the map, a national contest is scheduled on Feb. 18 and 19 in Tagbilaran City. Already, the rodeo is drawing contenders from provinces such as Negros Oriental, Masbate and Bukidnon.

The annual competition gives incentives to farmers to produce more quality beef cattle that can be potential rodeo entries. This year, over P100,000 were given away as prizes, divided among various rodeo activities. Last year's defending champion, the young students from CVSCAFT Main Campus Rodeo Team, retained the title.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

GRAB the calf's neck and tail to weaken its strength.



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Example:
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Friday-Knorr Cup-A-Soup

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Knorr Cook-it-Easy!
Knorr Cup-A-Soup
Knorr Cup-A-Snack

Example 1: Example 2:

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Wk 2 Feb. 24-28	March 6	March 16
Wk 3 March 3-7	March 13	March 23
Wk4 March 10-24	March 20	March 30
Wk 5 March 17-21	March 27	April 6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

2. Lahat ng winners ay padadalhan ng telegrama upang malaman kung paano makukuha ang premyo. Abangan din sa GMA ang listahan ng mga nanalo.

3. Sakaling mabunot ang pangalan mo nang higit sa isang beses sa isang draw, ang premyong may mas malaking halaga ang iyong makukuha.

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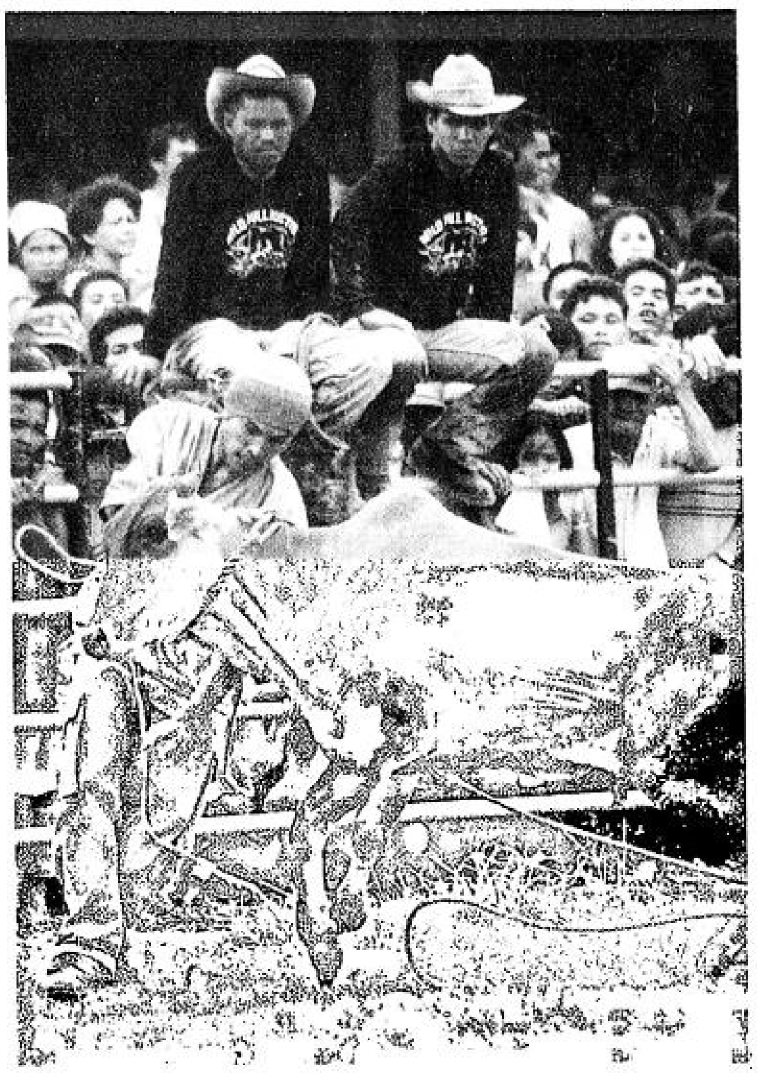
PINOY COWBOYS. The annual rodeo competition attracts young and old alike.



LASSOING on foot can be dangerous as this gives the calf time to prepare for that infamous pounce.

Gung-ho over rodeo

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Joan Bondoc

Ubay makes its bid to become the rodeo capital of the Philippines

IN UBAY, Bohol, a real man knows how to tame the wild in the testosterone-driven, rough-and-tumble world of rodeo, where an agile body is just as important as a quick mind.

While many view rodeo as a "fun," Texas-style sport, Ubay takes the event more seriously. Spearheaded by the local government, the third rodeo competition aims to encourage appreciation, care and management of animals.

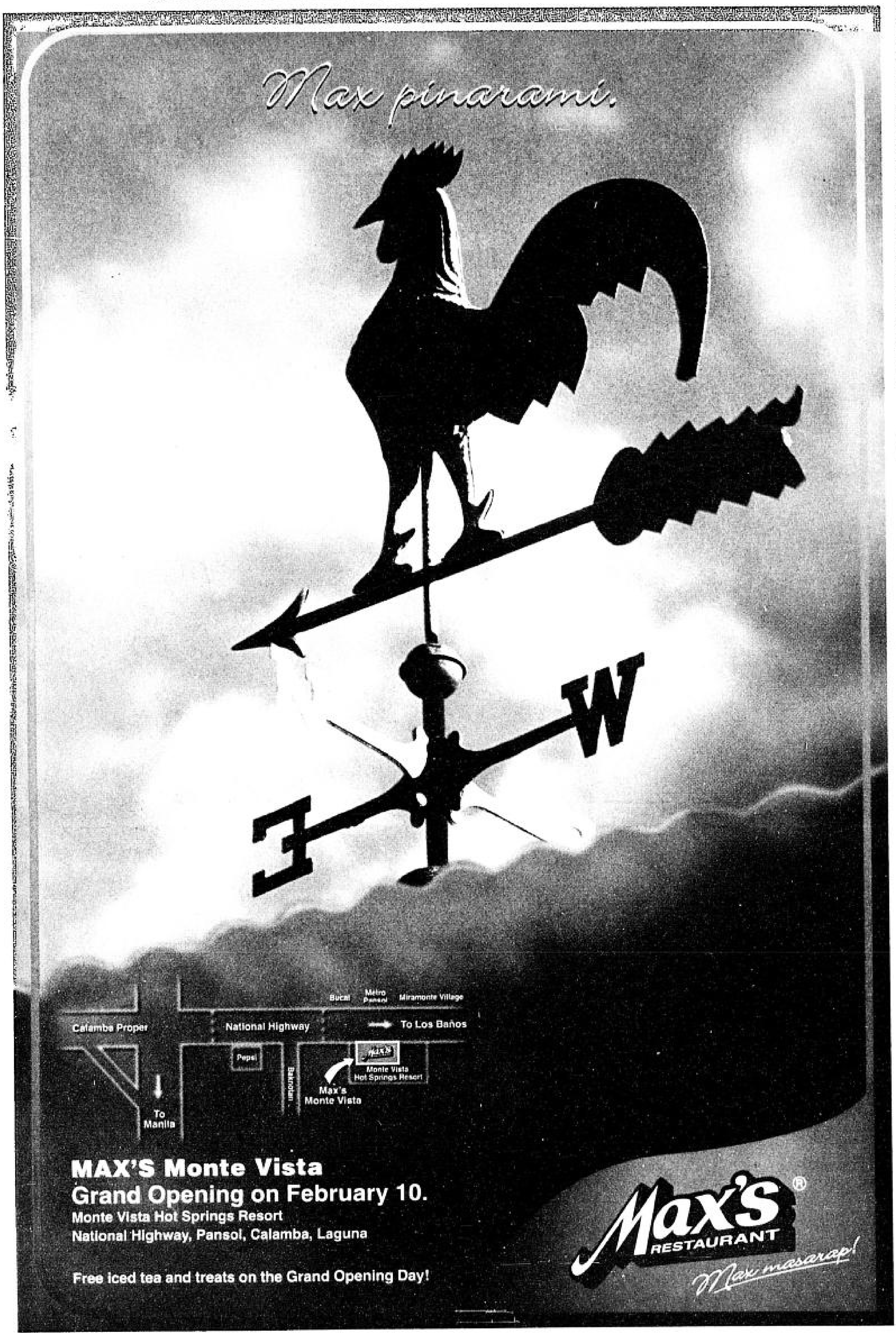
"Through the annual rodeo event, ranchers and farmers are taught how to handle animals without hurting them," said Dr. Gigi Salces, Ubay Stock Farm (USF) center chief.

The USF also trains local livestock producers on cattle-breeding techniques such as proper nutrition and health management.

Eleven teams participated in the amateur event, while a team from the rancher's division exhibited skills in various category. Activities in the daylong contest included calf lassoing on foot and on a horseback, calf wrestling, tug-of-war, bull dogging, bull riding and whip cracking, carambola and carabao race, among others. Each team was composed of seven members, all participants of a particular activity. And, at least one member must be a woman—a team muse of sorts—who usually settled to join the tug-of-war. As safety precaution, an ambulance was on standby for any mishaps.

Salces said members must be masters of three elements: time, showmanship and skill. Time is most important as winners were determined on how quick they captured and bound the wild calf during the carambola. Showmanship was the ability to display grace and composure, whether getting ready to throw the lasso or holding on to dear life and hopping along a visibly irritated calf in attempts to slow it down. Skill was how well a move was

GUNG-HO/F3



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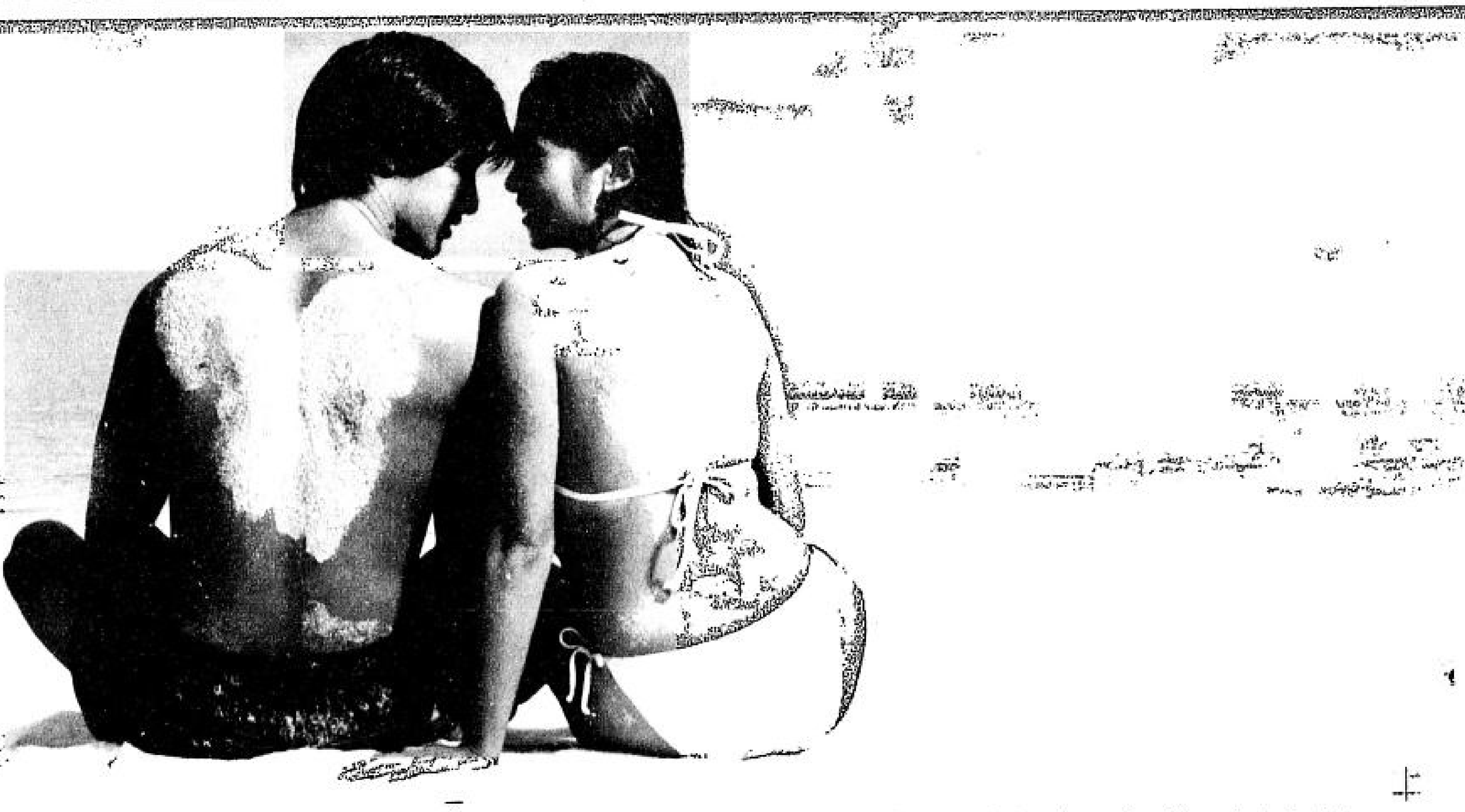

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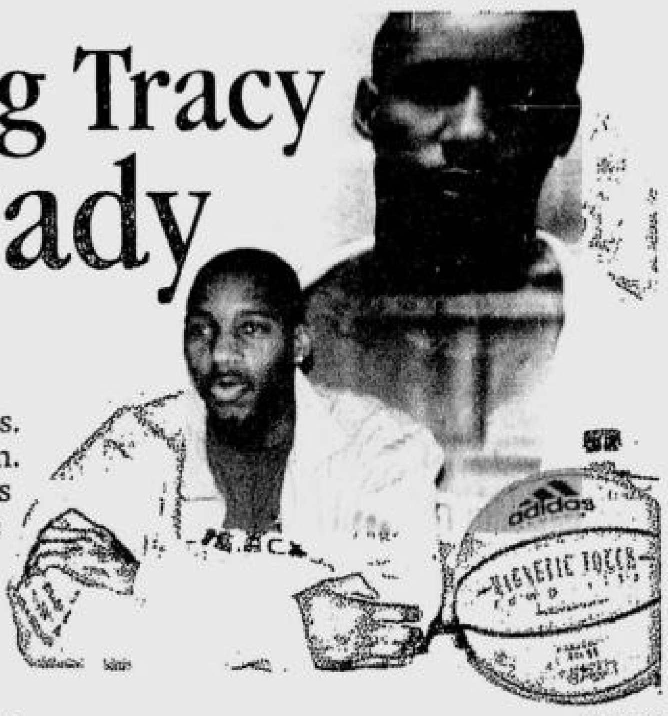
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Grading Tracy McGrady

Text by Beia Formoso
Photos by Cathy Babao Guballa



TRACY McGrady has not only fathered the T-Mac, he's going to be dad to a baby girl very soon.

Fluid. Effortless. Graceful. Clean. These four words perfectly describe the playing style of Tracy McGrady, one of the best players of the National Basketball Association (NBA) today.

The uniqueness of his game has inspired world-class brand Adidas to create the T-MAC 2, McGrady's second signature shoe, which is No. 1 in the United States and so far has sold a million pairs worldwide.

Adidas' policy of signing only "superstars," their term for athletes who possess not only talent

GRADING/ G3

> The Adidas endorser, who happens to be the NBA's leading scorer, definitely gets an 'A'

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'Celebrator' celebrates to the hilt

By Tessa Prieto-Valdes

I RECEIVED my first e-mail feedback through my INQUIRER e-mail address last week. The writer said I should say "birthday celebrators" and not "celebrants."

My goodness, what is the proper word usage? I quickly forwarded the e-mail to **Dennis**, who is not only my husband but who also edits my work, so he could verify the claim. His efficiency just never fails to surprise me.

All I can properly say is, I was a celebrator celebrating to the hilt the Chinese New Year, which fell on Feb. 1. Although it was quite an auspicious day, I didn't realize it until the next day because I was so exhausted party-hopping the whole evening.

Perennially late, I got to my first function at 9 p.m. Earlier, while getting dressed, I could hear the fireworks at nearby Greenbelt 3, an affair I was rushing to attend.

Now in full swing, GB3 had her coming-out party in time for the Chinese New Year. She was the "venue of the moment," drawing monumental crowds with her exciting restaurants, fashionable shops, hip bars and large open green spaces.

THE AUTHOR with daughter Annika and the Greenbelt fairies

Ambushed

Tim Yap, in his super-cool **Rajo Laurel** hand-painted jacket and tomato-printed Icon shoes, escorted me to the event, but we were "ambushed" by a cable TV network for an interview. Gladly obliging, we dispensed the usual party words of wisdom and then hied off to the main event.

Greeted by GB3's fairy friends, my little girl **Annika** asked if we could take all of them home. And if not, she said "just bring home their wings."

Unfortunately the fireworks were over when I got there, but the party was in full swing with **Jaya**, **Rex Navarette**, and all the guests. We ended up in Kitchen for dinner before heading to Event No. 2.

"Where is my date?" screamed **Angellette Calero**, when her friends from way back surprised her with a birthday party. The allure was a blind date at Milky Way Café with chef **Jay Gamboa** and coordinator **Malu Gamboa**.

Together with "celebrant" **Trisha Rodriguez**, the Pineapple gang and friends surprised both "celebrators" in the café where **Anton Barretto** put red tower candleholders and stylishly arranged red roses. After claiming my fav Cereo candle giveaway, we were off to Event No. 3.

Most memorable

Clearly the most memorable party of the evening was the Chinese New Year dinner party of Madame **Imelda Marcos** in her San Juan residence. **Keren Pascual** was my advance party, and he told me the host was waiting for me.

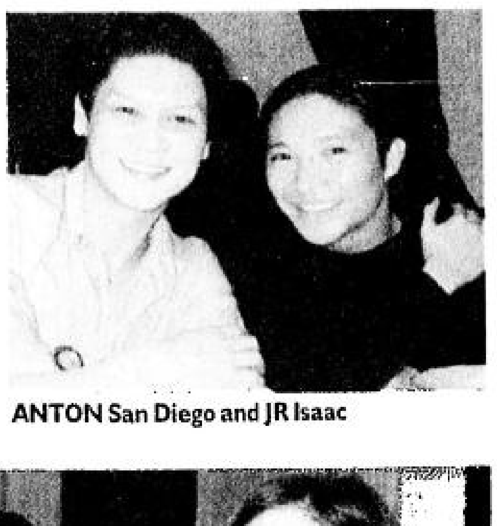
As **Leica Carpo** and I made our fashionably late grand entrance, I was awed by the Chinese décor and numerous memorabilia of Ms Marcos. She had a wall full of autographed photos of the late former President **Ferdinand Marcos** with sweet dedications to his beloved.

A "hostess with the mostest," she provided overflowing food and drinks with ponkans and chestnuts scattered on the tables. She even had Chinese trinkets and chocolate giveaways. Now I know from whom to get hosting tips.

Berna Lomotan gladly showed us around, with matching trivia about the rooms. Most fascinating was the office of the late president, where his table, chair, books, etc. were all intact. (Maybe **Bobi Tiglao** and **Nani Braganza** can hold office here.) Quite a tour, I must say.

Although the Chinese New Year was quite an auspicious day, I didn't realize it until the next day because I was so exhausted party-hopping

KEREN Pascual and Jon Herrera


ANTON San Diego and JR Isaac

As we said goodbye to my "sorceress," **Rosario Herrera**, and her brother **Jon**, who happens to be the hottest DJ in town, and **Eliza Valtos**, dressed in an elegant ball gown, thanks to her maid who told her to come in formal attire, the early morning chill was already surrounding us.

We had survived the "Kung Hei Fat Choi" events for almost eight hours. It's quite a miracle my **Mich Dulce** outfit with **Louie Claparols** pants stayed in place.

Doubling the fun

So for the Year of the Goat, I wish for—another me. This way I can double the fun and excitement of the new year. Also, I'll have the time to answer all my e-mail messages.

Getting back to my first e-mail, according to Webster's New World Dictionary, celebrant and celebrator are synonyms, meaning "any person who celebrates."

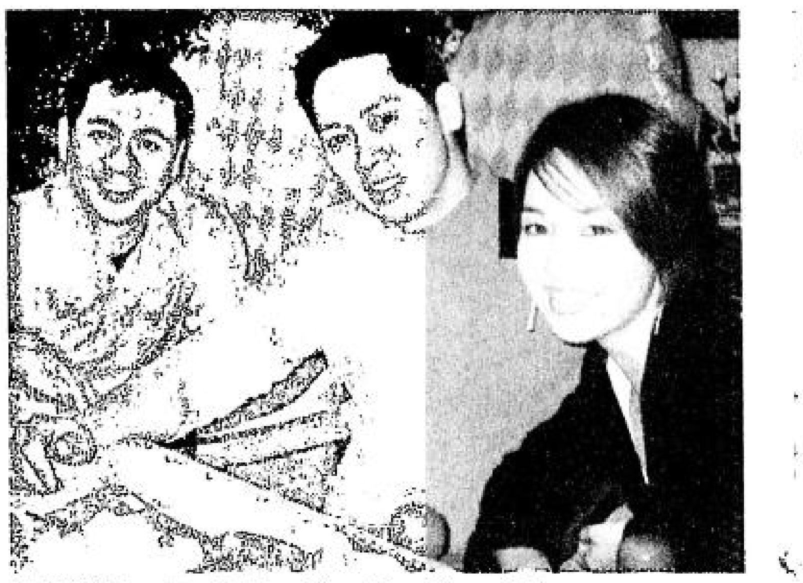
But the New York Times Manual of Style and Usage is less permissive: "In careful usage, a celebrant officiates at a religious rite, typically a Mass. A merrymaker is a celebrator."

And the INQUIRER Stylebook agrees with the Times: "A celebrant is a participant in a ritual. A celebrator is one having a good time or celebrating an event." You decide whether you want to be strict or liberal with your language.

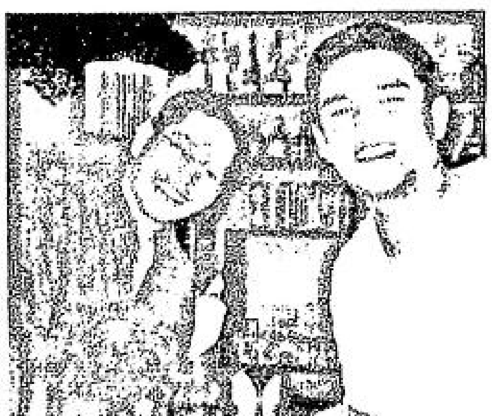
As a finale, I've an answer to the e-mail writer who asked me for a loan to buy a computer... Hello? Stand in line behind me! I'm asking Dennis for a new Mac with that cool OS X for Valentine.

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

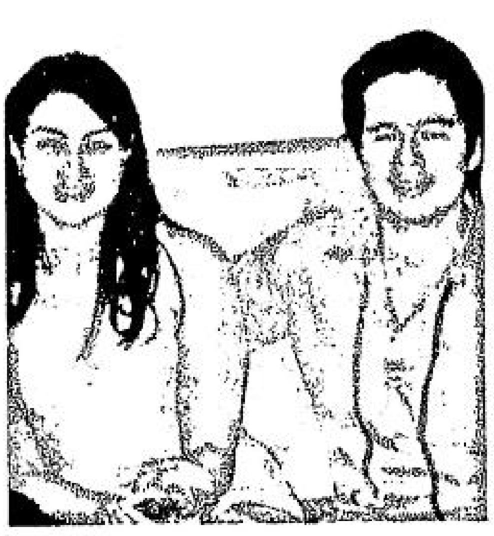
SONNY and Elly Dee and Peachy Zulueta


ANTON Barretto, Dr. Arnel Nuguid and Rosario Herrera

EDGAR Mortiz with his family


JON Fernandez and Jay Gamboa

AT EL CIRKULO, Juan Miguel Ongsiako and Leica Carpo


LIESEL Samson and Marco Rodriguez

TRISHA Rodriguez and Miguel Pertierra

Grading Tracy McGrady

From page G1

but also character, places McGrady in the spotlight as an international sports icon and role model for the youth.

What is the story behind Tracy McGrady and what makes him a superstar?

Early starter

McGrady's passion for sports started at the age of 5 and, ironically, it wasn't for basketball but baseball. In the town of Auburndale, Florida, he was raised by his mother and grandmother, who were strict but for good reason.

"They didn't allow me to do too much because of the area that I grew up in, that's why they kept me involved in sports—to keep me out of the streets and running with the wrong crowd," he said during a recent round-table session with Asian media sponsored by Adidas in Orlando.

Baseball, however, gave way to basketball when McGrady was in high school. He made waves in the Adidas basketball camp, which was McGrady's earliest tie-up with Adidas.

Skipping college

His decision not to go to college and sign up for the 1997 NBA draft at the age of 18 was based on his humble background. In his official website, he said: "I considered college, but my dream is to make it to the top, and I had a chance to do that earlier."

Asked if he had any plans of going back to study, McGrady answered, "Why do you go to college? To get a job, right? I [already] have a great job!"

However, getting into the NBA was not *that* easy. McGrady admits that coming straight from high school into the professional league was a "difficult transition." Drafted ninth pick by the Toronto Raptors, he had to face leaving his family and his hometown. "I was by myself. I really wasn't familiar with the country and it was a long way from home." To make matters worse, he was not getting much playing time.

It wasn't until cousin Vince Carter joined the Raptors that McGrady gained recognition for his skills and acquired more time on the court. In the 1999 season, McGrady led the Raptors in blocks and was second on the team in scoring.

Free agent

McGrady's big break finally bounced in when he became a free agent and signed up with the Orlando Magic in 2000; by this time he was 22. His first season with the Magic was successful partly because he was back home. "I'm here with my family, with my friends, so every night there are familiar faces up in the stands. There's a lot of real people around me."

His entry to the NBA might not have been as prestigious as other players before him that opted to skip college for a chance to play in the pros like Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett, who, from the start of their careers, were popular and had much playing time, but McGrady never gave up.

"I knew my day would come because I was real patient and that's what I tell some of these high-school guys—to be patient. You have to work at it; it's really not just going to come to you. You got to put in the extra hours, put in the extra time. Be dedicated and be determined to be better. That's why I am the way I am today."

What he is today is the NBA's leading scorer at age 23, ranked No. 1 in points (1337.0) and points per game (30.4).

"I work on every aspect to improve my game; I try to elevate my game. Each year I just come back a better basketball player whether it's a better jumpshot or a better defensive play."

Leadership

Upon joining the Magic, McGrady took classes that focused on leadership skills that he knew he needed to be able to guide his team to the championship. Leading his team is a responsibility that he willingly carries, given that teammate Grant Hill has been injured and out for three consecutive years.

"A lot of weight is on my shoulders, I just got to take charge and lead these guys to the playoffs," said McGrady. And if anyone can do that, it's definitely Tracy.

Don't make the mistake of asking him if he thinks anyone else is better: "You have great players that came out of high school along with myself—Kobe (Bryant), Kevin Garnett—all these guys are great players; it's hard to say who's better out of all of us. But I'm not going to sit here and tell you somebody is better than me coming out of high school!"

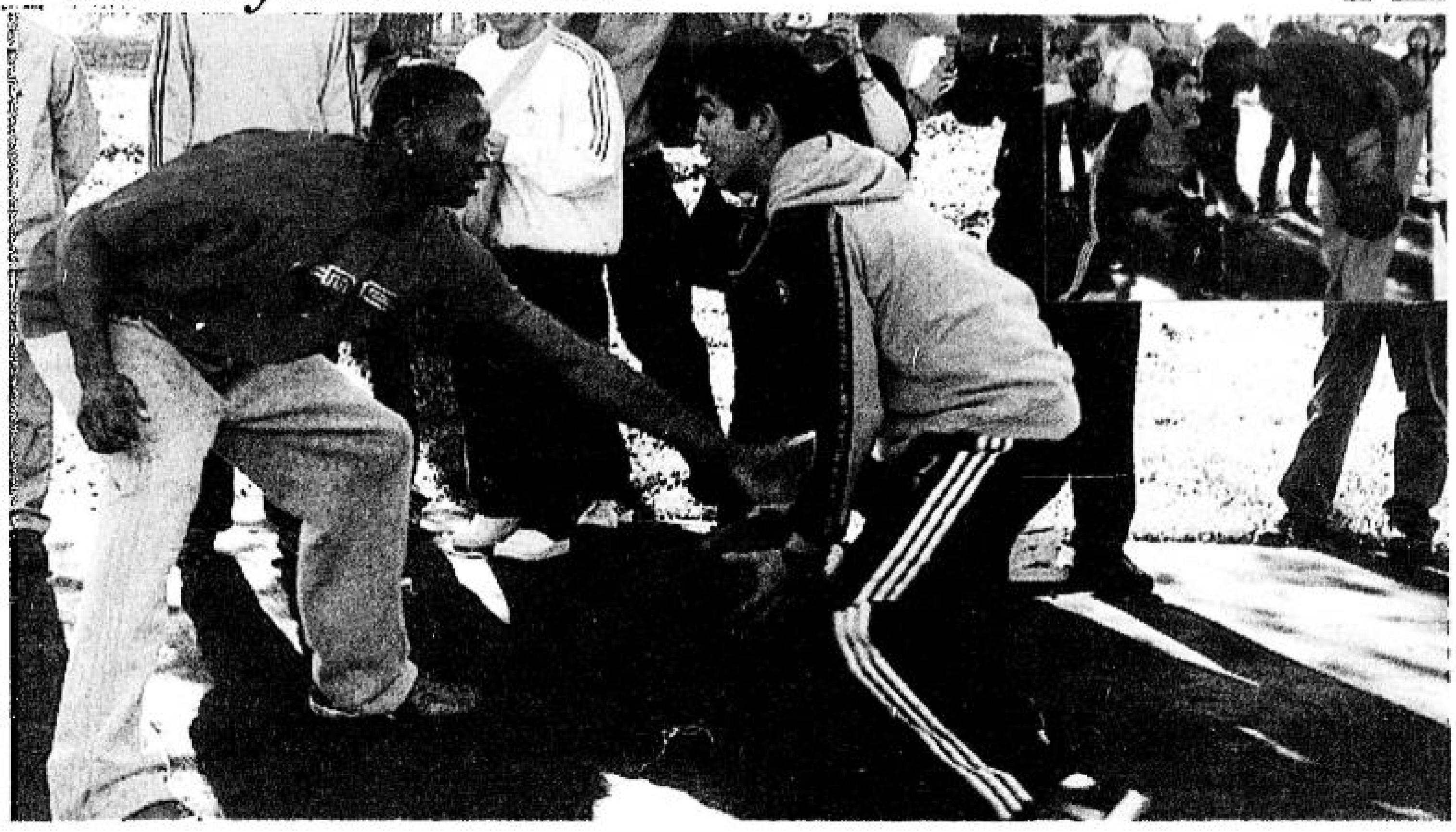
Also, don't ask him who is the better player between him and cousin Carter because he'll answer you with a question, "Who do you think is better?" And he wants to hear you say that he is!

There is no doubt McGrady is a superstar on the court, but what about when he isn't playing? What most people don't know is that he believes in giving back to the community and has donated funds to his high school. He participates in the NBA's Reading Time-Out Program. He has also set up the Tracy McGrady Charitable Foundation.

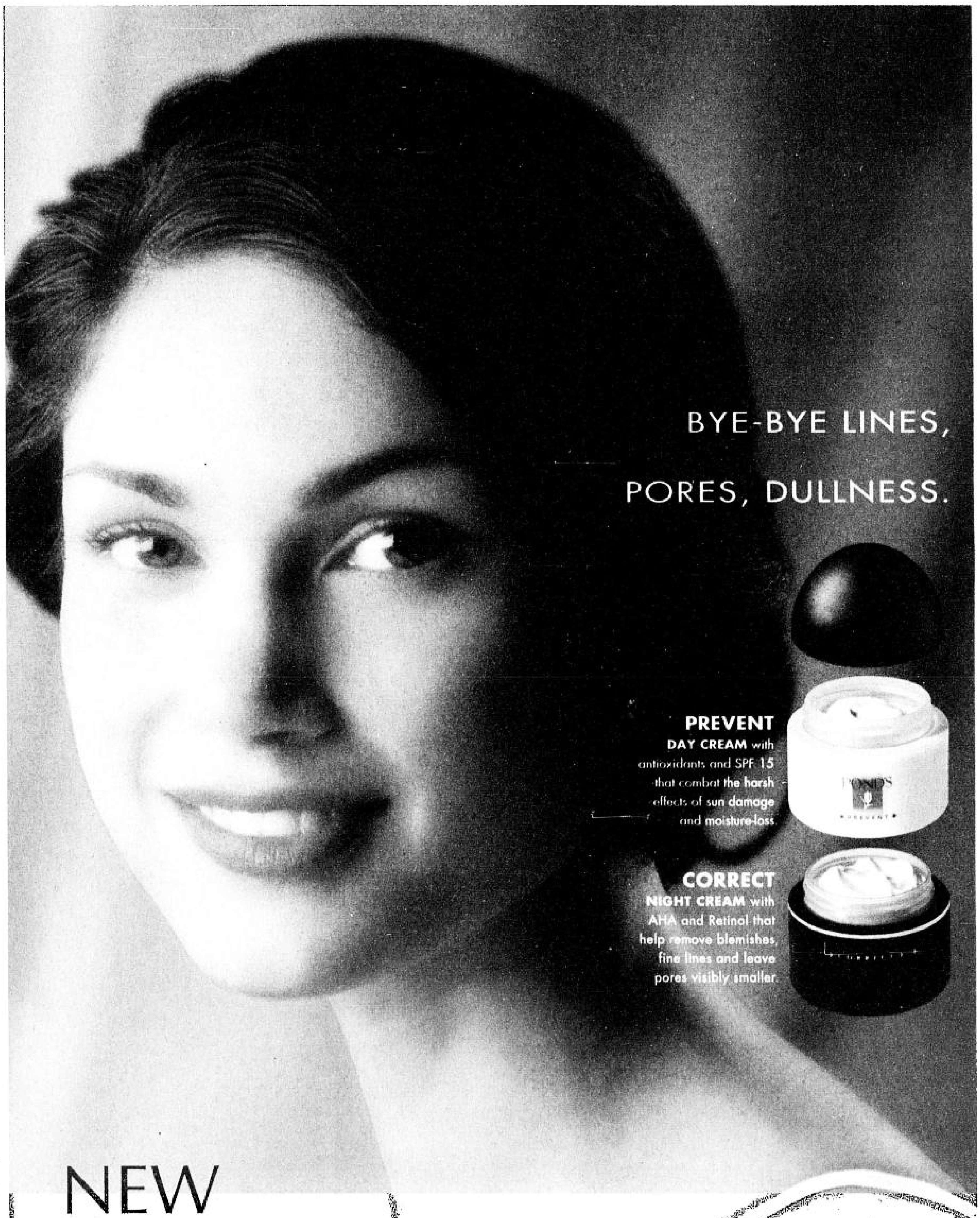
Role model

Being a role model goes hand-in-hand with being a sports icon, something that doesn't affect Tracy at all: "It comes with the territory... I'm not going to shy away from it at all. I don't

GRADING/G4



ONE-ON-ONE UAAP Green Archer BJ Manalo tries to get past McGrady: "He's my favorite player so it was a dream come true. It was fun but it was hard. I traveled 10,000 miles to get here (Orlando) and it was worth it because I got to touch him and I got to play with him!"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T-MAC MAKES THE GRADE. Adidas designer shows blueprint design of Tracy McGrady's signature basketball shoes

Grading Tracy McGrady

From page G3

feel any pressure—I don't believe in pressure."

Though a dropout, Tracy would encourage the youth to study. "Going [straight] to the pros is not for everybody. Not everybody will make it," he warned. "I was just one of the few who were blessed and were able to make it."

Indeed, McGrady has come a long way in his career as a player. So has he as endorser with the release of the T-MAC 2 shoes and apparel.

McGrady had a lot of input in the T-MAC 2 line, from the colors and his views on what makes a great basketball shoe: "I first want my shoes to look good and, second, they must function on the court. People who don't play are looking more for comfort and style. For those of us who use them to play, they must be able to perform night in and night out. So I look for both style and function."

Seeing people wearing his shoes is, by his admission, crazy. "There is nothing better than to be out in public seeing little kids wearing your shoes. When I was younger I was one of those kids wearing someone's gear that I idolized. Now it is people wearing my stuff, and there is no greater feeling than that."

Clearly, McGrady is having fun. "I have a deep passion for the game of basketball. This is my job, this is my life. A lot of people don't get the opportunity to play or do something that they love as their occupation. Basketball is my life—and I am having fun."

HAVING FUN. McGrady obliges the Asian media with a quick game in Orlando, Florida.

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L 28

Ito'y talagang absorbent. At cool and comfortable si Frankie dahil sa high cut leg design nito. Practical na ang presyo, makakasiguro pa si Sharon sa quality. Mula sa **Huggies**.

Special garden-wedding setup

FOR the first time in wedding fairs, a special garden wedding setup will be featured during the two-day event "May Kasal sa Forbes Park," Feb. 15-16, at Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati City. Venue is the church garden area.

The setup features all-natural products accented by vegetables, fruits and aphrodisiacs. Future brides and grooms will have a chance to see and choose the real types of garden wedding from among a number of exhibitors.

A free wine-tasting will be hosted by Louis Maclean Far East Limited, featuring Chamdor, a 100-percent alcohol-free bubbler.

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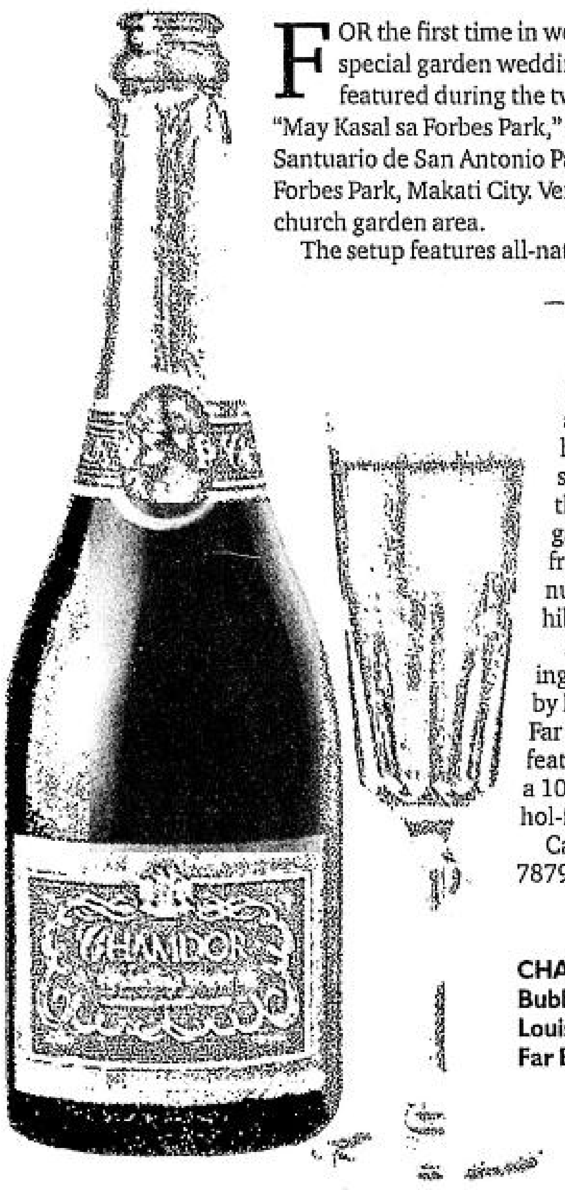

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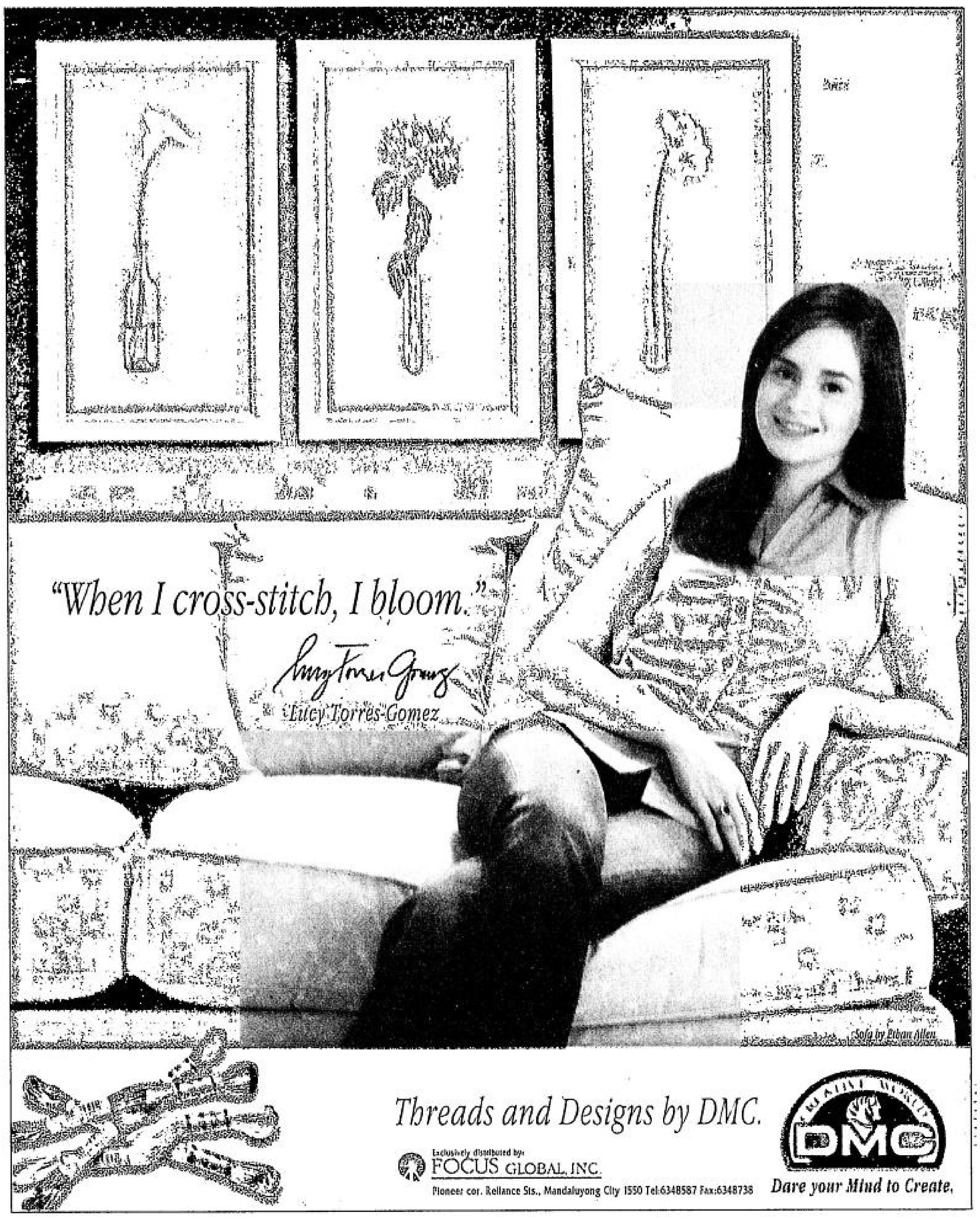

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(front row) **NENEG and Dada de la Peña (flower girls), Andre Dinglasan (coin bearer) and Gabe Santos (ring bearer); (back) San, Lelei and Chinkee Clemente, Bombit de la Peña, Julius Ticzon and Ryan Manaog**

GLADY Cabuñag, Chit Gohu and Connie Araneta

THE COUPLE with loving mom, Doña Coring T. Clemente

Wedding anniversary gathers clans

FAMILY members and friends flocked to Manila Polo Club recently to celebrate fun-loving yet hardworking couple Benny and Ophie Clemente's 25th wedding anniversary.

The dinner-dance hosted by the couple's daughters, Jaclyn, Rachelle and Susanne, was a huge success despite the last-minute preparations.

The Clementes were planning to go on a well-deserved vacation to the US when Benny, Belco Marketing Inc. president, decided it would be more fitting to have an intimate dinner party with their relatives and friends. The daughters, helped by event organizer Jun Pablo, tasked themselves with the month-long preparation.

The couple recited the vows for the second time in a Mass officiated by their spiritual advisor and friend, Fr. Sanny de Claro.

Principal sponsors were: Antonio V. Martel Jr. and Belen Lovina Ticzon Martel (proxies were Don and Norma Sanders, as the couple were in New York with daughter Antonia), Roberto Gelano and Rizalina Buenaventura (proxy was Irene M. Francisco).

The Clemente's daughters, Chinkee, Lelei and Sansan, stood as their secondary sponsors, along with Benny's godsons Bombit de la Peña, Julius Ticzon and Ryan Manaog.

(seated, from left) CARRIE Bautista, Mellie and Louie Ablaza, Myrna Borromeo, Rikki Jimenez and Marilou Reyes; (standing) Mars Lambino, Ed Bautista, Thelma Gana, Pacita de Guzman, Ophie and Benny, Tito de Guzman and Robert Chinjen

Peppy Dinglasan (Bible bearer), Gabriel Santos (ring bearer), Andre Dinglasan (coin bearer), Margaret and Theresa de la Peña (flower girls) completed the entourage.

Mass songs were beautifully rendered by popular tenor Nolyn Cabahug, whose powerful voice filled the Manila Polo Club's Main Hall.

Crowded dance floor

Guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner buffet. While everyone was having dessert, family friend Wanggo Gallaga hosted the program, which was started with a toast by Jaclyn. A video prepared by the Clemente daughters, Ophie's youngest sister Portia T. Santos, and niece Arlene Ticzon, was shown on a wide screen.

When Benny and Ophie gave their speeches, everyone in the room was misty-eyed, including former beauty queen Myrna P. Borromeo, couturier Rikki Jimenez, Ed and Carrie Bautista, Louie and Mellie Ablaza, Tito and Pacita de Guzman, Thelma Gana, Mars Lambino, Marilu Reyes and Dr. Robert Chinjen.

There were two surprise numbers: niece Pauline T. Santos' rendition of the classic love song "When I Fall in Love," and a quirky mambo by Portia Santos, Arlene Ticzon and Sharon de la Peña.

The dance floor was opened with music provided by permanent party fixture Lady Valerie and her orchestra.

Joining in the dance were the Clementes' grand matriarch Doña Coring T. Clemente, aunt Cleofas T. Jacob, Edelyn C. de la Peña, Elvie C. Manaog, Andy Clemente, Juliet L. Ticzon, Romeo L. Ticzon Jr., cousins Pablo H. Ticzon, Myrna T. Javier, Lino and Bessie Du, Lele Taiño, Baby Gonzalez, Cora Ticzon, Irma and Ding Lovina, Ric S. Pascua, Erik Martel, the numerous nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

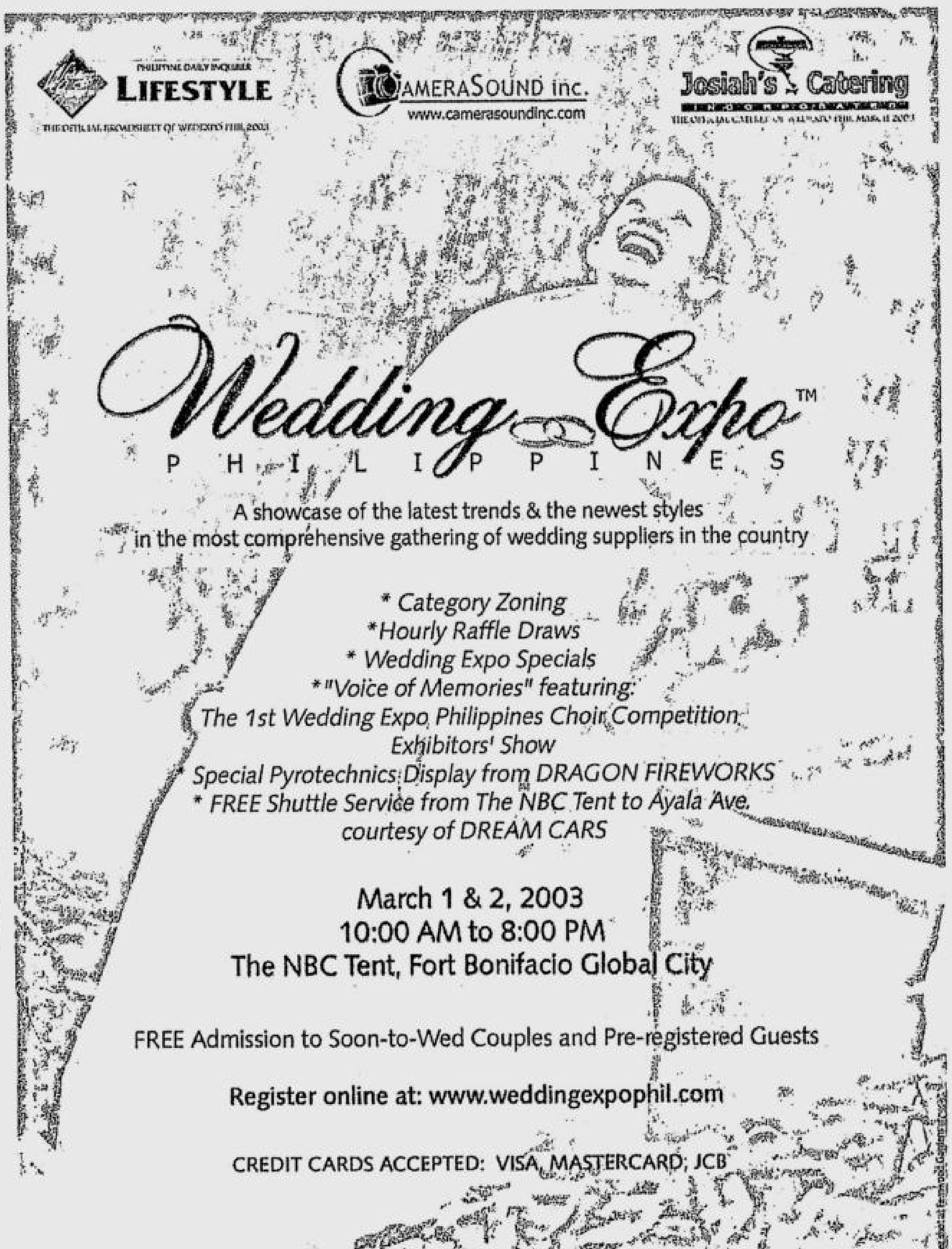
More Quezonian friends

Also seen on the dance floor were Chit Gohu, handsome couple Linggoy and Connie Araneta, Luis and Vina Mercado, Danny and Lilia Cruz, Jim and Vivian Villacrusis, Emma Ilagan, Tessie Maronilla and lovely girls Julie, Chuchay, Chiqui and Melissa, Nonong and Tessie Gatmaitan, Moises and Fely Hilahan, DBP lawyer Don and Daisy Villamayor, Cesar and Evelyn Olegario, Caloy and Mads Domingo, Manny and Offie Pacheco, architect Danny A. Bonifacio, Norma Cruz, Tess Baniqued, Ninang Baby Recto Gelano, Lucena Mayor Ramon Talaga and lovely wife Ruby, Normie Castillo, Bim Castillo, Baby O'Brien, Lilot Avanceña.

Quezonian friends celebrating with the couple were Ado Escudero, Nards and Norma Virtucio, Roger and Glady Cabuñag, Susan Pagdanganan, lawyer Al and Bing Vizcocho, lawyer Ed and Rockie Escueta, former Quezon Gov. Ed and Emmie Rodriguez, retired Gen. Pepe and Grace Alcañeses, Gen. Marlu and Mardi Pedregosa, Jasmin Enverga and son Mike, Naila E. Leveriza and son Dennis, Becky Caballero, retired Gen. Nestor and Helen Castillo, Cindy Dayrit and son CJ, Flory Santiago, Lydia Hao, Joey and Julie Uy, Calex and Baby Cataquiz, Rey and Emy Palmiery, Noli and Liz Barcelona, Rudy and Edith Buendia, Tony and Fe Vilar, Linda Diamante, Hjalmar Quintana, Tito Tesoro, Leandro and Mila Garcia, Tony Constantino, Minnie Señeres, Dr. Johnny Nañagas, Peping Conti, Tony Palad, Cesar Insua, Bobby and Moleen del Rosario, Ben Farrales, Dennis and Dulce Abcede.

As guests were leaving, the younger set stayed on and took over the dance floor. It was truly an evening to be cherished by the Clementes for years to come, hopefully for another 25 years.

(seated) LULU Cruz, Vina and Luis Mercado; (standing) Councilor Boy Isip, Danny Cruz, the couple and Al Vizcocho



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Couple arrives at reception on vintage Cadillac limousine

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

KINA Serafica, pretty daughter of **Jose Serafica** and **Marisse Garcia Serafica**, became the bride of **Banjo Ho**, son of **Mariano Ho Jr.** and **Rosario Sia Ho**, at an evening ceremony in the Cebu Cathedral officiated by the bride's uncle, Msgr. **Cris Garcia**.

Sponsors were **Edwin Lim**, Councilor **Gabriel Leyson, Manuel Limtong, Dennis Garcia**, Mesdames **Ellen Tan, Lourdes Páiso, Teresa Cuenco** and **Filomena Sy. Mary Ann Tan** was Kina's maid of honor while **Richelieu Ho** stood as his brother's best man. Bridemaids **Katrina Zosa, Inger Cuenco, Marianne Ho** and **Judylyn Lim** were complimented by as many groomsmen—**Michael Aponesto, Sven Anders Serafica** (Kina's brother), **Jonathan Ho** and **Jeffrey Lawas**.

Attending to the bridal couple were flower girls **Rhys Ho, Samantha Reyes, Zoe Larranaga** and **Nicole Ho**; pages **Nathan Ho, Chilo Mercado** and **Stefano Serafica** with the rings, coins and Bible; and the secondary sponsors—**Imanol Larranaga** and **Christine Borromeo** for the candle; **Richard Ho** and **Alexandra Mercado**, veil; **Richmond Ho** and **Michele Lucia Iezzi**, cord.

The reception was held at the Cebu Country Club, beautifully decorated by Buds 'n' Blossoms. Quite a number of the guests went to the foyer to see the newlyweds arrive. They went to the driveway on board a vintage Cadillac limousine that has been with the family since the time of the bride's great-grandparents, Don **Gil** and Doña **Teresa Garcia** (née Escaño). And it has been kept in perfect running condition. It's usually parked at the Visayan Electric compound on Mango Avenue.

* * *

Anton Perdices and **Maria Paz Vicente** went to a wedding in Orlando (Florida) on Dec. 8, 2001, set eyes on each other, and fell in love. By Feb. 28, 2002, he had proposed, and on April 19 of the same year had a civil wedding, that being the anniversary of his parents. Then they set their church wedding in Cebu on Dec. 7, 2002.

Maria Paz is the daughter of Don **Lorenzo Vicente** and Doña **Maria del Pilar Areales**, who are very prominent in Dumaguete City and in Spain. Anton is the son of **Mariano Perdices** (also from one of the most prominent families of Dumaguete) and **Ma. Del Carmen Gonzalez de Perdices**. The ceremony was limited to immediate family at the chapel of the Cardinal's Palace.

Sponsors were **Roberto Aboitiz, Manuel Ortiz, Victor Perdices, Antonio Moraza, Ignacio Vicente**, Mesdames **Annabelle Locumal, Pilar Sarmiento, Dolores Ortiz** and **Dolores Montenegro. Maria del Pilar Vicente** was her sister's maid of honor; **Mikel Martin Perdices**, his brother's best man. In the entourage, too, were bridesmaids **Casandra Barrica** and **Monica Moraza**; groomsmen **John Unchuan** and **Richard Reineckse**; flower girls **Maria Galan** and **Ysabella Unchuan**; pages **Jesus** and **Reza Barrica** with the rings and coins, **Eduardo Unchuan** with the Bible.

Secondary sponsors were **Dominic** and **Karla Alegrado** (candle), **Gaspar Vicente** and **Dolores Barrica** (veil), **Jose** and **Maite Unchuan** (cord). The reception, to which some 400 were invited, was at the Atlantic Hall of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel where a magnificent buffet was served, and where dancing went on till the early hours of the next day.

* * *

Marie Christine Wagner and her parents, **Daniel** and **Joanne Wagner**, came all the way from Wisconsin for her wedding in Cebu to **Jerald Garcia**, son of former Cebu City Mayor **Alvin Garcia** and **Ninette Neri Garcia**. It was held at the Cathedral with Cardinal **Ricardo Vidal** officiating.

President Macapagal-Arroyo led the principal sponsors, which also included former Cebu City Vice Mayor **Renato Osmeña, Julius Neri, Dale Garcia, Cesar Atienza, Rudy Aliviado, Terence Bauer**, Mesdames **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, Diana Franco Ledesma, Sagrario Bondoc Morelos, Ma. Victoria Neri Valdez** and **Zenda Garcia Lat.** In a place of honor were Jerald's beloved grandparents, lawyer **Jesus Garcia Sr.** and **Ms Ever B. Garcia.**

The reception was held at the ballroom of the Cebu Plaza Hotel, adorned with flowers of all colors by **Teresing Mendezona.** The toast was led by the bridegroom's younger brother **Raymond Garcia**, who mentioned that elder brother **Jess Garcia** and his bride **Lesley** (née Oliva) who were married last October in California had sent a message that they will be parents by September this year.

Jerald also spoke, recounting how he proposed, on his knees, to Christine, at the courtyard of the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Minneapolis, where he studied medicine. He had asked for a sign from heaven that would confirm divine approval, and when she said "yes," the church bells began to peal.

* * *

From our dear friend **Tina Ebrada** comes news about a wedding in Bacolod City that united two very prominent families. **Tina Jalandoni**, daughter of **Benjie** and **Terry Jalandoni**, exchanged marrriage vows with **Andy Feria**, son of **Annette Feria**, and grandson of Doña **Juanita Fernandez**, who, hale and spry at 93, attended the wedding.

This was held at the Queen of Peace Church where hundreds of vigil lights flickered in the cool evening air lending it a fairy tale quality. Sponsors were aunts and uncles of the couple—**Roberto Jalandoni, Antonio Mapa, Nena Jalandoni Yaptengco** and **Dr. Celia Feria Divino.**

MARIA Paz and Anton Perdices

JERALD and Christine Garcia with principal sponsor President Macapagal-Arroyo

BANJO and Kina Ho with her parents (at left) Jose and Marisse Serafica, and his parents Rosario and Mariano Ho

ANDY and Tina Feria with her parents Benjie and Terry Jalandoni, and his mother Annette Feria and a favorite nephew Don Colmenares

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Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

NOMANANAP-CAGALAWAN

Wena Cagalawan, daughter of **Wencislao** and **Maura Cagalawan** of Lanao Del Norte, tied the knot with **Ely Nomananap**, son of **Eleseo** and **Evelyn Nomananap** of South Cotabato, on Jan. 22 at Ibarra's Garden, Padre Faura St. Malate, Manila. Reception followed at the garden of the wedding venue. Ceremony was ministered by **Rev. Lemuel Villano**.

TESORO DEBUT

Leslie Anne "L.A." Mateo Tesoro, daughter of **Arnold** and **Mary Jane Tesoro**, recently celebrated her 18th birthday at the Camelot Hall, Regency Inn, Villa Abrille Street, Davao City.

L.A. is a freshman nursing student at the San Pedro College, Davao City.

MANUEL-CASAL

Anna Casal, daughter of **Estelito** and **Flordeliza Casal**, will wed **Jun Manuel**, son of **Rolando Sr.** and **Marianita Manuel**, at the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony on Feb. 7, 6 p.m., at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Pope John Paul II Youth Center, Central Business Park, Reclamation Area, Pasay City. Reception will follow at The Orchidarium, Teodoro F. Valencia Circle, Rizal Park, Manila.

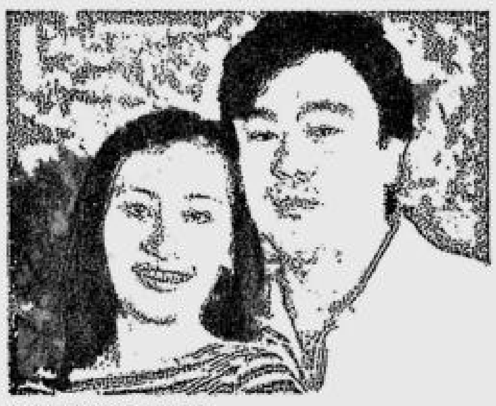
BALBIN-LAROYA

Councilor **Violeta L. Laroya** of Agoo, La Union, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Santiago V. Laroya**, exchanged marriage vows with Councilor **Henry B. Balbin**, also of Agoo, La Union on Jan. 18, 4:30 p.m., at the Basilica of Our Lady of Charity, Agoo, La Union. Reception followed at the Jose D. Aspiras Hall, Agoo, La Union.

The gowns of the bride and her entourage were designed by **Edward Teng**.

GALANG-ESPIRITU

Jenny Espiritu, daughter of **Alfonso** and **Ma. Luisa Espiritu**, and **Marvin R. Galang**, son of **Mario** and **Virgie Galang**, exchanged marriage vows on Dec. 27 at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, San Beda College, Mendiola, Manila. Fr. **Tarcisio Ma. Narciso**, Abbott of the Benedictine Community, officiated the wedding. Reception followed at the Palawan Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.



MAKINO-TAN

Grace Marilou F. Tan, daughter of **Arnulfo** (deceased) and **Soledad Tan**, and Seishi Makino, son of **Tadashi** and **Teruko Makino**. will exchange "I do's" on Feb. 23, 7 p.m., at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth & the Life Church.

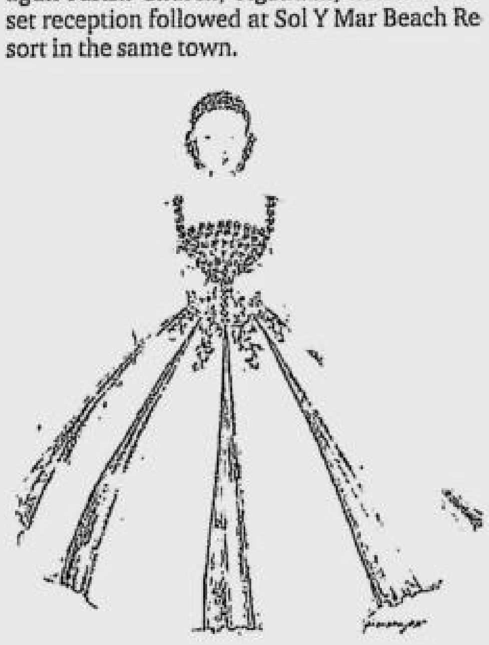
Reception will follow at the Hyatt Regency Manila.

BAILEY-NOEL

Arvin Bailey, son of **Engr. Juan Jr.** and **Herminia Bailey**, will wed **Olive Noel**, daughter of **Lydia R. Noel**, on March 3, 10 a.m., at the Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish, Katipunan Road corner Pansol Street, Quezon City. Reception will follow at the Orosa Hall, Balara Filter, MWSS Katipunan Road, Quezon City.

BAUTISTA-ENGADA

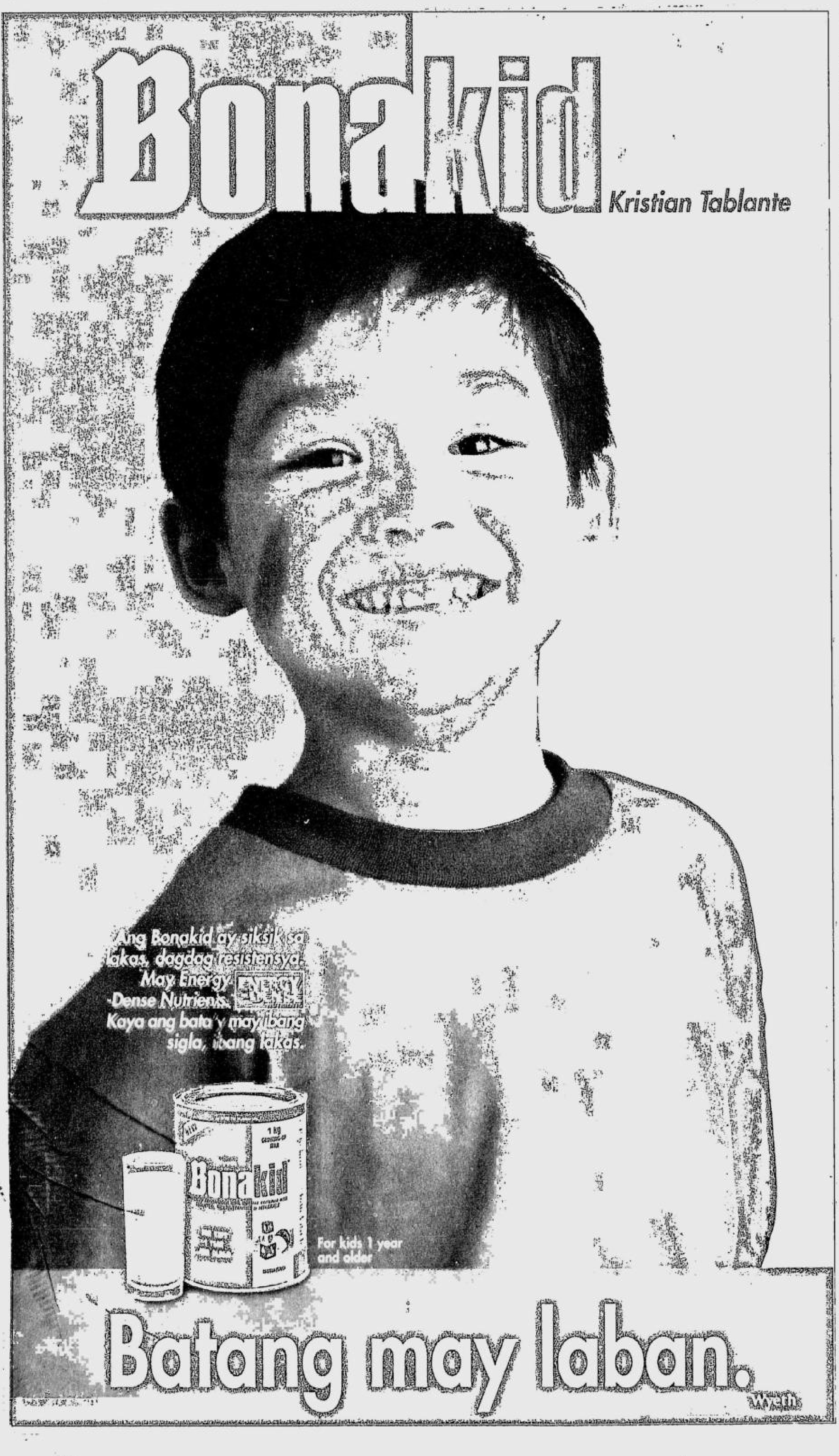
Ma. Agnes L. Engada, daughter of **Maurecio** and **Luz Engada** of Iloilo City, and **Roy C. Bautista**, youngest son of the late General **Luciano** and Dr. **Aurora Fe Bautista** of Baguio City, were married Dec. 28 at St. John of Sahagun Parish Church, Tigbauan, Iloilo. A sunset reception followed at Sol Y Mar Beach Resort in the same town.



QUIMOY CORONATION

Four-year-old **Mieka Quimoy**, daughter of **Ana Quimoy**, will be crowned Miss BSPS 2002-2003 at the Blessed Sacrament Parochial School, Novaliches, Quezon City on Feb. 14.

Designed by **Jay Masangya**, Quimoy will wear a red box pleated, full balloon gown in duchess satin, embellished with rosettes and beadwork in intricately designed pattern. It also features a beaded detachable sweep train with floral and large bow accents.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COUNTRY SALES MANAGER

Female/Male, 30 to 40 years of age; With good track record of selling experience; Computer literate; Excellent leadership, interpersonal & communication skills.

NATIONWIDE COORDINATOR FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Not more than 40 years old, Very satisfactory level of facilitation & coordination skills, extensive experience in capacity building program development, management & implementation, have background on governance, partnership & institution building, gender & culture sensitive & project conceptualization, proposal making & financial analysis.

Able to converse in most of the dialects in Southern Philippines, most particularly Tausog, Maranao or Maguindanao.

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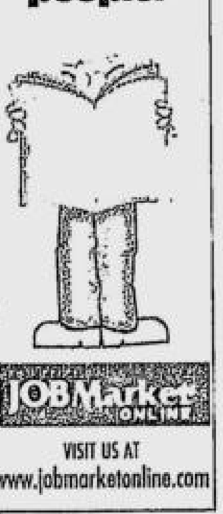

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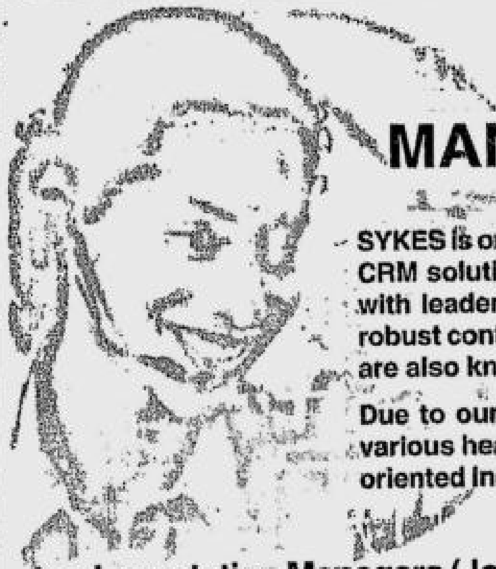

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- Excellent working attitude, flexible and has the ability to perform multi-tasks
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Ortigas Center, Pasig City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

JAPANE INTERPRETER

Send Resumé to:

MK 113
G/F ATRIUM BUILDING
MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
Fax to 807-2674

URGENTLY NEEDED

LAWYER

with at least five (5) years experience in litigation and corporate work. Send resumé with (2x2) colored photograph and law school scholastic records to: Unit 3E AGCOR Building, 335 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, 1108 Quezon City.

DOLMAR

Dolmar is a 30 year old real estate development company with property holdings in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna and Bulacan Area. We have an immediate need for a:

BROKER RELATIONS SUPERVISOR

The BROKER RELATIONS SUPERVISOR shall be responsible for planning, directing and coordinating all activities relating to the recruitment, development and servicing the needs of Real Estate Brokers for Dolmar's Residential Projects. Responsibilities include ensuring that business plans and targets of the Brokers are achieved.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any 4 years business course.
- Minimum of 4 years experience in real estate environment, with minimum 2 years experience in broker coordination or relations.
- Excellent Customer Service orientation and positive sales attitude.
- With good communications skills in both Filipino and English.
- Must be friendly, outgoing, extrovert with good interpersonal relations and able to mix well with all types of people.
- With training and product presentation skills..
- With working knowledge of Ms Word, Excel and Power Point.

Please bring your comprehensive resume with a 2x2 Picture to:

HR DEPARTMENT
Dolmar Property Ventures, Inc.
3/F DOLMAR Bldg., 56 EDSA, Mandaluyong City

Memo To: **All Early Retirees and Redundants**
From: The World's Biggest Financial Corporation
and the No. 1 Company in the Philippines
Subject: **Opportunity for a business, a profession, a lifetime career**

Be not afraid … take the plunge. Retire early … take the money. Settle all your debts .. redeem the mortgage on home and car. Repair or renovate your home. Bring the family to Hong Kong or to Disneyland. Shop till you drop … dine, wine and be merry!!!

Whatever is left of your retirement money, save it. Let it earn interest income for you (but expect it to be much less than your previous salary).

Then, study your options. But never go back to employment. It will be the same story all over again. You will age faster and die poor. And, never go into business and risk all you've got. Chances are you would fail.

Here's an option we offer you today. We will help you earn several millions each year. You will be so rich and successful. You would wish you had seen this opportunity while you were much younger. Meanwhile, you will not need to withdraw from your savings, whatever is left of it.

We pay you an unlimited income plus qrtly bonuses; college scholarship up to P700k/yr/child; annual incentive trips to USA or Europe; life & health benefits; housing & car loan subsidy.

We only need a few good men & women. **Bring resume, talk to Mrs. Deveza on Feb 11 or 12 at 10 am at 8/F Philam Bldg, 126 Leviste St., Salcedo Vill, Makati (across Makati Sports Club)**

DMCI HOMES
Beyond Houses Lasting Homes

BE A PART OF OUR GROWING SALES TEAM.

Applicants must:

be between 25 to 35 years old
be proficient in oral and written communication
have excellent interpersonal skills

Preferably with sales background.

Hand carry your resume and 2 x 2 photo not later than February 11, 2003 between 9a.m. to 12 noon, for an initial interview.

Competitive compensation packages, generous incentives, intensive training and other benefits await qualified individuals.

DMCI Homes is the housing subsidiary of giant construction firm D.M. Consunji Inc., one of the largest and most respected names in the construction industry.

4th Floor DACON Bldg.,
2281 Pasong Tamo Extension,Makati City
Look for Mr. Dom Valdecanas

QBE
PHILIPPINES
SPECIALIST INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

Graduate Trainee

QBE Insurance Group Limited is an Australian based non-life insurance group that has operations in over 40 countries worldwide with annual gross written premium of approximately PHP 240 billion, and a market capitalization exceeding PHP 150 billion.

For more information about the Group please refer to our web-site at: http://www.qbe.com.

QBE Insurance (Philippines), Inc. commenced operations in January 2000 and is now looking for an energetic, well presented and self motivating individual, to work in our marine division.

The trainee will be developed towards fulfilling a Business Development Officer role within 12 months of joining.

We are seeking candidates with the following minimum qualifications:

- Good University Degree
- Good written and oral communication skills in English
- Mathematical ability and aptitude
- Willingness to complete insurance studies with the Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance (ANZIIF)

The successful candidate will report to the Marine Underwriter.

We offer an equal opportunity work environment with competitive remuneration and solid career opportunities.

Candidates should forward their resume to the attention of Bernadine Barrera at:

QBE Insurance (Philippines), Inc.
3rd Floor, Prudential Life Building
843 A.Arnaiz Street (formerly Pasay Road)
1229, Makati City

CGFNS & U.S. LICENSED NURSES

Do you want to avail of an Immigrant Visa Petition for Free?

WE DARE YOU...
COME AND COMPARE

WHEN:	March 6, 2003 8am - 5pm	March 8 & 9, 2003 8am - 5pm	March 11, 2003 8am - 5pm
WHERE:	Century Park Hotel - Manila Badjao Room Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street Malate, Manila	The Marco Polo Davao Jade 2, 3 & 4 C.M. Recto Street Davao City	Waterfront Hotel - Cebu Coral Room Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City

The hospital representatives of ST. MARY HOSPITAL, Hoboken, New Jersey and CHRIST HOSPITAL, Jersey City, New Jersey are coming to interview nurses in all specialty areas.

NURSES!

Don't Deal Yourself a Joker When you can Have an Ace

A Best
♥ • Free •

- Processing of Immigrant Visa Petition
- U.S. Embassy Visa Fee
- Agency Fee
- Airfare (Manila-U.S.A.) Travel & Departure Tax
- TSE Exam Fee
- TOEFL Exam Fee
- NCLEX Exam Fee, Review & Trip to Saipan to take exam
- 2 months Housing

A Better
♦ • Package •

- Competitive Salary
- Paid Vacation
- Paid Sick Leave
- Insurance

A Good
♣ • Things we offer •

- Continuing Education
- Excellent Benefits and Incentives
- Outstanding Working Condition

"NO SALARY DEDUCTION, ALL FEES PAID BY THE HOSPITAL"

Ms. Amelia J. Olegario from New Jersey will be on hand to assist the Hospital Representative

For more information, please contact:

Ms. ELSIE T. DELA CURA OF EA INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENT, Rm. 203-204 Aurora Plaza Bldg., J. Bocobo Cor. Arquiza Sts., Ermita, Manila. Tel. Nos. 526-6431, 526-4642, 525-8756. EA International Branch Office in Bacolod City contact person: Marietta Guillen Tel. Nos. 034-4338971, 034-4343009 Cebu contact person: Ms. Eda Soledad cell no. 09164829323 or 09172437235 Davao contact person: Ms. Maricar Dy phone no. 082-2250399 EA International Branch Office Tel. No. 082-2250399.

Please bring: Typewritten Resumé and Original Documents (CGFNS Certificate, TOEFL, TSE, ICHP) College Diploma, High School Diploma, Birth Certificate, Marriage Contract if married, Transcript of Records, Related Learning Experience, PRC Certificate, Board Rating, PRC ID., 6 pcs. Passport size picture and Employment Certificate with area of exposure.

The **Women's Health & Safe Motherhood Project-Partnerships Component**
a Project of the Government of the Philippines with funding support from the European Union (EU), is currently in need of an:

ILLUSTRATOR/CARTOONIST

Who will: (1) Conceptualize and execute reader-friendly illustrations for a range of Community Health Development (CHD) training manuals; and (2) Work closely with Technical Officers, Consultants and Co-Directors to ensure that the illustrations are appropriate to the needs of the target audience and tie in with the content of the training manuals.

Qualifications:

- Extensive experience in drawings and illustrations, lay-out and graphic design
- Proficient in desktop publishing and graphics design software
- Demonstrated capability to draw and illustrate instructional materials
- Exceptional conceptual skills
- Knowledge and experience in adult learning/participatory training techniques and production of materials for community-based projects would be an advantage
- Able to work under pressure and deliver expected outputs on time and to the required standard

THE POSITION IS A SHORT-TERM, OUTPUT-BASED ENGAGEMENT. ONLY THOSE WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.

Interested applicants should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resumé by e-mail or fax on or before **14 February 2003** to:

WHSMP-PC

THE HRM OFFICER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph

The WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT
a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health
with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The WHSMP-PC works in close collaboration with its Partners, the DOH Centers for Health Development, LGUs and NGOs, to improve the health status of women through the use of community health development techniques, which enable women at the barangay level identify and articulate their health needs and be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health

The Project is currently seeking a highly qualified and experienced

INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (IEC) SPECIALIST

for its Office in Baguio

The person we are looking for should be able to think out of the box and come up with novel ideas and winning ways of promoting women's health and empowerment at the community level. Specifically, she/he will conduct communications resource and needs assessment in Project areas; formulate a strategic communication plan based on the overall IEC and advocacy framework of the Project; identify, pretest and promote key messages among stakeholders; develop feedback mechanisms; conceptualize and supervise the production of appropriate, relevant and cost-effective IEC materials and events; liaise with the media, academe, LGUs and NGOs; and conduct trainings to help build the IEC and advocacy capabilities of community women and Project partners.

Qualifications:

The candidate must be: knowledgeable in Social Marketing; extensive experience in IEC and advocacy work in the community; gender-sensitive and aware of community health/development issues; proficient in DTP; graphics design savvy; excellent writing and editing skills; fluent in Ilocano; willing to travel extensively to Project areas; and graduate of a four-year course in Communications or Social Sciences

ONLY CANDIDATES WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.

Interested and Qualified Applicants should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resumé by e-mail or fax on or before **14 February 2003** to:

WHSMP-PC

THE HRM OFFICER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph

JOIN our High Energy Telemarketing Team!
Job Code: TM

If you're charismatic and spunky enough and feel like marketing techy-style, then join our team of assertive, committed and exuberant people. Everyone is welcome! All you people who can make a sale, both College grads/undergrads are all invited. Experience in sales and marketing will give you an edge during your application.

Of course we do need a few requirements from you:

- MUST have excellent command of the English language
- Listening and problem solving skills
- Customer and sales oriented
- Should have basic computer skills
- Can work full-time on a night shift

Thinking of what we have to offer? Aside from the unlimited opportunity to maximize your talents, we guarantee the following:
A Lucrative Basic Salary, plus
Meal allowance, Commissions and Incentives
Excellent and Extensive Training (paid)
Comprehensive medical and insurance package
Advancement potential

SYKES℠

Just bring your resumé and your good self over to:

SYKES ASIA , INC.
28th Flr., Robinson's Summit Bldg.,
8783 Ayala Ave., Makati City

Applications without JOB CODE will not be processed.

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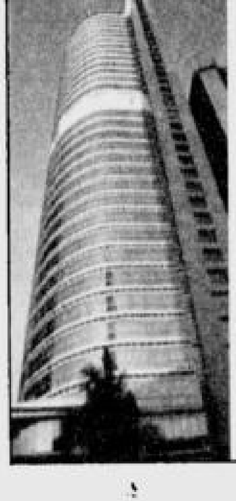
www.ambergrissolutions.com

ambergris solutions

Bring or mail your updated resumé with picture to:
Ambergris Solutions
31/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Monday to Friday, between 9AM - 9PM



At ambergris solutions our employee-partners are committed to transforming the world of customer care. Come join the revolution!

Current positions available:

- **INBOUND CUSTOMER INTERACTION ASSOCIATES**
  - must have excellent English communication skills
- **TEAM CAPTAINS**
  - 1 year previous supervisory experience (in any field) a must
- **SR. TELCO ADMINISTRATOR**
  - 2 years voice over IP experience a must
  - CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) and some call center experience a must
- **TRAINERS**
  - experience in organizational development a must
- **FACILITIES OFFICER**
  - must have experience in building administration

GUESS® USA

URGENT job openings

Our company is known worldwide for its high quality clothing and accessories. It is a team of dynamic individuals working together in a fast paced and continuously growing environment. We invite you to be a part of our team!

MIS SUPERVISOR	***QUALIFICATIONS:*** *Male or female, 27 years old & above *Graduate of Computer Engineering or Computer Science *At least two (2) years related experience in a supervisory capacity *Proficiency in computer applications required *Able to work under pressure *Must possess good communication & leadership skills, diligent
JR. TECHNICAL ASST.	***QUALIFICATIONS:*** *Male or female, not more than 27 years old *Graduate of Computer Engineering or any related course *At least two (2) years related experience *Must be hardworking, with a good sense of urgency, energetic team player
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	***QUALIFICATIONS:*** *Female, not more than 35 years old *Graduate of any business related course *At least two (2) years related experience *Must be excellent in both oral and written communication highly organized,conscientious, flexible, with a good sense of responsibility

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumes and 2 x 2 picture to:

THE HRD MANAGER
150 DII Bldg., San Vicente Rd., Brgy. San Vicente
San Pedro, Laguna
4023
Tel. No. 8086017 to 56 Local 221/246

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tyler

(Owned and operated by Republic Retailers)

Urgently needs

STORE OPERATIONS MANAGER

☐ Graduate of any 4-year course
☐ Must understand the balance between art and commerce
☐ Speaking a foreign language an advantage

DESIGNER

☐ College graduate of a design or merchandising course
☐ Pattern-making degree an advantage
☐ Must be willing to compete with Gucci, Prada and Purificacion Garcia

MERCHANDISE MANAGER

☐ Graduate of any (4) four-year course, preferably in Philosophy
☐ Speaking a foreign language is an advantage
☐ Must understand the balance between art and commerce

FINANCE OFFICER

☐ Must be proudly Filipino
☐ CPA an advantage
☐ Must understand the balance between art and commerce

FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGER/HOTEL MANAGER

☐ Must have an extensive knowledge of F&B Operations within hotel operations and multi-outlet venues
☐ Must be fluent in spoken and written French, Spanish or Italian
☐ Must be willing to work outside Manila

SEWER

☐ Must be a high-speed sewer
☐ Export production experience an advantage

SUPPLIERS

☐ High quality suppliers who can manufacture for us belts, ready to wear, shoes, bags
☐ High quality fabric suppliers

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

REPUBLIC RETAILERS HEADQUARTERS
#36 Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

THE WORLD BANK
World Bank Office Manila

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Preparation of the Urban Shelter and Community Infrastructure Project
CONSULTING SERVICES

The Government of the Philippines has received a PHRD grant from the Japanese Government, in the amount of USD 250,000, for the preparation of the proposed Urban Shelter and Community Infrastructure Project to be partly financed from a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). It has been preliminarily agreed that the World Bank will execute the grant on the Government's behalf. The Urban Development Sector Unit in the East Asia and the Pacific Region of the World Bank intends to apply a large part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract for Preparation of the Urban Shelter and Community Infrastructure Project.

The services include the provision of following Consulting Service: (i) preparation of overall project framework (review of shelter policies and programs; development of eligibility criteria for slum communities and local government units; provision of the overall justification of the project that covers technical, social, institutional, financial, economic and environmental aspects; and development of the outline of project operations manual); (ii) feasibility study of selected communities to participate in the project (mobilization of community organizations, assessment of infrastructure needs and preparation of cost estimates; stakeholder consultations of service needs, priority and willingness to pay; preparation of design, financial analysis, economic analysis, resettlement action plans, environment assessment, and financial management procedures for the pilot project).

The assignment is expected to be undertaken within a period of six months starting March 2003.

The Urban Development Sector Unit in the East Asia and Pacific Region at the World Bank now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrower*, published January 1997, revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 0900 to 1600 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by February 17, 2003.

The World Bank Office Manila
Mr. Ming Zhang, Infrastructure Sector Coordinator
20th Floor, Taipan Place Bldg., Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City Philippines
Tel: (63-2) 637-5855
Fax: (63-2) 637-5870
E-mail: mzhang1@worldbank.org

JOB MARKET

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

NETWORK ENGINEER

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Computer Engineering or ECE
- Must have 1-2 years experience in computer networking
- Proficient with E-mail and Internet Administration

Responsibilities:

- Administers E-mail and internet clients on Linux Server
- Provides network technical support to end users
- Troubleshoots complex network and infrastructures issues
- Performs network cabling, termination, testing and installation of Network interface cards

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT - Advertising

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Mass Communication or Marketing
- Knowledge in Computer Office and Layouting software operations
- Must have hands-on experience in proofreading and layouting pages

Responsibilities:

- Shall proofread and design layout of the newspaper pages
- Entertains supplement/People, Events and Products editorial inquiries

CIRCULATION FIELDMAN

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any Business Course
- With excellent customer relations skills
- Familiar with the street network of Metro Manila

Responsibilities:

- Shall visit and monitor agents' sales performance
- Handles inquiries and complaints of agents

DESKMAN FOR ADVERTISING

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- Comfortable with the use of computer office softwares
- Must be systematic, organized, good in coordination and possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- With customer relation skills

Responsibilities:

- Handles inquiries regarding ad placements, materials and deadlines
- Takes reservations for advertising using the computerized ad booking system
- Plans the layout of advertisements within the newspaper pages

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Journalism, Mass Communication or English
- Knowledge in Computer Office and Layouting software Operations
- Must have hands-on experience in proofreading and layouting pages

Responsibilities:

- Shall proofread and design layout of the newspaper pages

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

CSV Solutions

is in need of the following:

MIS MANAGER

- *at least 10 yrs. Experience*
- *should have worked in a project with the public sector*

JAVA DEVELOPERS

- *At least level 3 proficiency in Java 2 (1 = beginner, 5 = expert)*
- *Developed web applications with Servlets/JSP components*
- *Deployed web applications in Web Logic Server (or Web Sphere, iPlanet, etc)*
- *at least level 2 proficiency in Web Server administration*
- *Developed EJB components in at least 3 J2EE applications*
- *At least level 2 proficiency in Application Server admin.*
- *Used UML in writing design documents*

VB DEVELOPERS

- *2-3yrs exp. with working knowledge of Crystal reports*
- *Has developed Client-Server applications*
- *Knowledge of at least 1 of the following: MS SQL, Sybase, Oracle; .net a plus*

POWERBUILDER DEVELOPERS

- *2-3yrs exp., PFC preferred*

DBA

- *at least 2 of the following: Sybase, Oracle, MS SQL; running in either NT or Unix*

QA TESTERS

C PROGRAMMERS, MAINFRAME PROGRAMMERS

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resume to:

CSV Solutions, Inc.
50-C Timog Ave. Quezon City 1100
or fax resume to:
3729579 / 8969486

Sensormatic
securing today's business

DUE TO HIGH DEMAND FOR SENSORMATIC PRODUCTS, WE ARE IN NEED OF HIGHLY MOTIVATED

SALES PERSONNEL

- College graduate (Marketing/Management and Business course)
- Preferably with Electronic background
- Good in oral and written communication
- Must have a marketing/sales experience of at least 2 years
- Willing to be trained in Sales or in Marketing
- Must have a positive attitude towards work.

Qualified applicants may send no later than February 16, 2003, their Letter of Intent and Resumé with a 2x2 photo to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
Unit 2204 Prestige Tower Condominium
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Tel: (02) 910-6636
or e-mail at sensorma@skyinet.net

HIRING NOW FOR NEW FACIAL SALON – MAKATI AREA

STORE MANAGER

Trustworthy, reliable and dynamic experienced dermatologist or skin/facial therapist with fluency in English to run facial salon. Business experience in the beauty/spa industry preferred.

FACIAL & SKIN THERAPISTS

Experienced therapists with pleasing personality. Must be discreet, soft-spoken, diligent, with finesse. English-literate manicurists, hair care specialists and reflexologists (preferably male) also considered.

RECEPTIONIST

Excellent in English, articulate, organized and health conscious. Experienced in the beauty/spa industry, sales, customer service and/or telemarketing an advantage.

Call Carla on 813-5279 between 12 noon and 7 p.m. only.

WANTED FOR PLANT LOCATED IN LEYTE

1. PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of BS Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical or Industrial Engineer; licensed preferred
- 3-5 years experience in production of pulp and paper or with any industrial manufacturing firm

2. QUALITY CONTROL/R&D DEPARTMENT HEAD

- Graduate of BS Chemistry or BS Chemical Engineering; licensed preferred
- 3-5 years experience with pulp and paper industry or with any industrial manufacturing firm as quality control or R&D Head/Supervisor

SEND BIO-DATA TO:

RM. 403 CSP Building
815 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTANT

✓ Female/Male, 26-36 years old, CPA
✓ at least 3 years supervisory experience in a restaurant business
✓ good analytical & auditing skills
✓ computer literate
✓ Possesses adequate knowledge in financial report
✓ exposure in dealing w/ BIR and other government agencies

Call for Interview: 0919-652-5437

MSA ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT INSTITUTE

is in need of

Highly Qualified Teachers in

Mathematics, English, and Science

Math, Biology, Chemistry, Mass Com, Com Arts, or Engineering graduates from UP, ATENEO, DLSU with good scholastic standing, hard working, can communicate effectively and has a ***great passion*** for teaching may apply immediately at

315 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Q. C.
Tel 435-6062 ♦ 435-6063 ♦ 929-9145

One of Manila's leading Universities is in need of:

- *Dean for the Criminology Department,* licensed Criminologist with minimum of 5 yrs. experience in the academe and as administrator, at least 40 yrs old
- *Dean for the Engineering Department,* preferably with an MA/Doctoral Degree, with minimum experience of 5 yrs in the academe, at least 40 yrs old
- *Vice President for Academic Affairs,* at least 45 yrs old, Doctoral Degree with a minimum of 10 yrs experience as school administrator

*compensation is negotiable. Send application, documents with ID picture to – The President, P.O. Box 2931, Manila

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SALON SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT, INC.
Manager of
A Chain of Beauty Salons
Join the company with a Total Human Development Program

FRONTLINERS/SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- 4-year course graduate (HRM preferred)
- customer oriented & cheerful
- 20-30 years old
- pleasing personality
- at least 5'1" in height
- preferably with back ground in sales
- fluent in English

MASSEUSE

- PT graduate
- female, 20-30 years old
- pleasing personality
- experience necessary

SECRETARY

- college level
- pleasing personality
- hardworking
- willing to be trained
- computer literate
- 20-30 years old

Requirements:
Resumé with picture, NBI Clearance, Barangay Clearance, Transcript of Records, SSS No.

For Inquiries: pls call Yvette or Micoh
813-0240 / 812-4864 local 102-103

RBCJ PHARMACY
Operated by: RBC-MDC CORPORATION

PHARMACIST

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Registered pharmacist
2. Female or Male, preferably not more than 25 years old
3. At least one year experience
4. Computer literate

Please see us during **office hours** with your Bio-data and Transcript of Records on **Feb. 10 to 12, 2003.**

8467 West Service Road, South Superhighway Parañaque, Metro Manila
(beside Petron station/near Bicutan exit)
Tel No. 776-7385/7769685

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

Philippine AXA Life, a joint venture between one of the largest bank in the Philippines, Metrobank and one of the world's largest life insurers, the AXA group is looking for enthusiastic and achievement-oriented candidates to join its elite work force.

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE

The position entails meeting with clients, analyzing their personal financial background, advising them on appropriate action to be taken and concluding the sale of appropriate products and services.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ☑ 25-40 years old
- ☑ Must be a College graduate
- ☑ Must have at least 2 years professional experience with a successful track record preferably but not necessarily in the Financial Services Industry
- ☑ A background in stock trading, real estate, retail sales, banking or insurance will be an advantage
- ☑ Has preference working in the areas of METRO MANILA, BULACAN, CAVITE, LAGUNA, PAMPANGA, SAN FERNANDO, PANGASINAN, DAGUPAN, TARLAC, OLONGAPO, BATANGAS, NUEVA ECIJA and CABANATUAN.

SKILLS:

- ☑ Good interpersonal skills
- ☑ Excellent oral and written communication skills (Ability to speak Chinese will be an advantage)
- ☑ Sound analytical / numerical skills
- ☑ Proficiency in MS Office applications (e.g. Word, Excel)

QUALITIES:

- ☑ Ability to listen
- ☑ Effective judgment and comprehension
- ☑ Confident disposition
- ☑ Positive nature / outlook

Qualified candidates should send their resumé, transcript of records and a 2" x 2" photo by Friday, 14th of February 2003 to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Makati P.O. Box 2390

Philippine AXA Life will offer chosen candidates a salary-based package with excellent incentives, a comprehensive training programme, and a rewarding career path.

METROBANK Member of the Metrobank Group

A TOP 1000 FIRM INVITES APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF

COMMUNICATION MANAGER FOR VISAYAS/MINDANAO

The successful candidate who will be based in Cebu shall be primarily responsible for:

- ➢ Developing corporate communication strategies.
- ➢ Implementing communication plans and programs.

Applicants must be willing to travel in Vis-Min and have the following qualifications:

- ➢ Male or female, between 25-45 years old
- ➢ Five to seven years experience in corporate communication, public relations and media
- ➢ Extensive network of contacts in government, media, trade and industry, NGOs in Visayas and Mindanao
- ➢ Excellent oral and written communication skills

Qualified candidates are advised to send their letters of application and resumés along with a recent passport photo to CM4VM, P.O. Box 271 Manila on or before February 17, 2003.

A CALL SERVICES COMPANY

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HONEST, HARDWORKING AND HIGHLY DEDICATED PEOPLE. SALARY/COMMISSION UNLIMITED DEPENDING ON ACTUAL PERFORMANCE.

FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT:

➢ TELEMARKETERS

- To handle calls to customers and clients

➢ OFFICE COLLECTION STAFF

- To assist and follow up collection of accounts

➢ FIELD COLLECTION STAFF

- To handle field negotiations for collection of accounts
- Knows how to drive two-wheel vehicle is an advantage

➢ OFF-SITE BASED PERSONNEL

- Female who are willing to work home based

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Should I sign a nondisclosure agreement to get a job interview?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: Recently I got a recruiting call from a giant software company that I'd kill to work for. But they insist that I sign a nondisclosure agreement before they'll even meet with me. What are the risks of signing?

To Sign Or Not To Sign

These days, nondisclosure agreements seem to be breeding faster than rabbits. Used to be that only big corporations used them—and selectively at that—to prevent existing employees from leaking trade secrets and customer lists.

Proprietary information

Now, in a lot of industries, they're virtually standard fare during the interview process because many companies don't want interviewees to divulge any information they received during the interview.

But just because they're standard doesn't mean they're harmless. Judd Lees, an attorney with Williams, Kastner and Gibbs in Bellevue, WA, believes that most people take these agreements too lightly. They can be enforced. More than one overeager soul has been hauled into court by a current or prospective employer for allegedly stealing the company's proprietary information. Some of these people were merely continuing the work they'd been doing before talking with the company.

Precautions

So, if signing a nondisclosure agreement is not a good idea, how do you get your foot in the door at the company? Lees recommends the following steps, which would enable you to have your meeting while also protecting who you are and what you know.

Ask to have the agreement mailed to you ahead of time. Compare their nondisclosure agreement with those in a book of legal forms (available at your local library or law library). Are they throwing you any curve balls?

Mark your proposed revisions on the agreement and bring it with you to the interview. Discuss the agreement frankly before beginning any job-related conversation. Ask if the company generally enforces such agreements and in what instances, then note the answers and keep them on file. Should a lawsuit develop, their statements could limit your liability.

Choices

Don't assume that your only choices are to sign or not to sign. Instead ask to modify the agreement to suit your needs. Insist on a time limit: don't sign an agreement in perpetuity. And limit the material covered to confidential information you acquire after signing the agreement. Knowledge you possess before signing should be expressly excluded.

If they refuse to accept your changes, think hard. You need to decide just how badly you want that job—and whether it's worth a lawsuit if they later claim you "misused" their confidential data.

In a nutshell, signing a nondisclosure agreement can be more dangerous than leaving your billfold on a downtown street corner. Lose your billfold and you lose your cash on hand. Sign a nondisclosure agreement that's too broadly written and you might be handing your future to the company, or your bank account to a lawyer.

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning WorkingWounded.com and RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

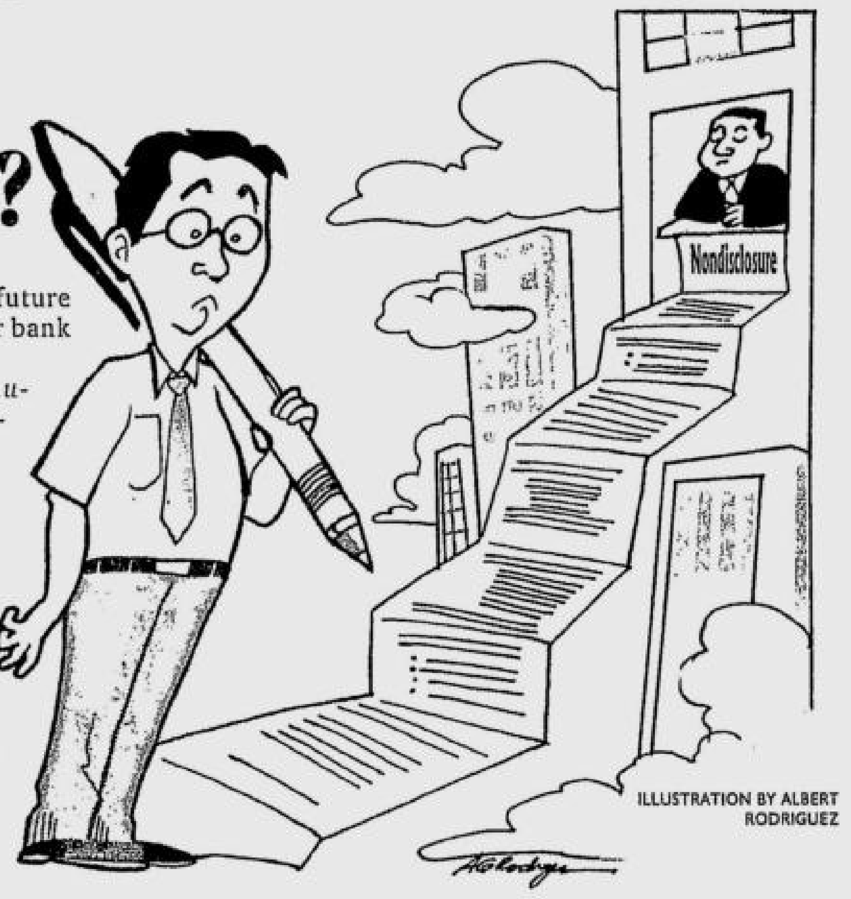

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Telemarketing bloopers

By Ms. C.

WORKING OOPS!

FILIPINOS are among the best call center operators around but sometimes bloopers happen. Here are some that happened in a call center subsidiary that does outbound telemarketing to US households.

Customer Service Representative (CSR): Do you have any child so we could send out these gifts to you?

Client: I'm sorry but I don't have any child.

CSR: Oh I understand, what about any grandchild? *(How could this be possible?)*

***

Client: (mad) How many times do I have to tell you I didn't purchase any card!

CSR: Ma'am, I'm talking about a car, a toy car, not a card.

Client: But I said I didn't purchase any card!

CSR: No ma'am, not a card, what I mean is a car, an automotive.

***

Client: What is that space bag bulk storage system?

CSR: Well sir, it's some kind of a space bag, it's like a storage system where you put your things. *(Is it obvious this telemarketer doesn't know what she is selling?)*

***

Client: What is this space bag?

CSR: Ah sir, it's the thing worn by astronauts. *(Really?)*

***

CSR: One last thing sir, may I have your city of birth?

Client: What?

CSR: Your city of birth?

Client: What? I can't quite hear you.

CSR: I said your city of birth, the place of your born!

***

CSR: ...and as proof that I really did talk to you, may I have your city of birth, the place where you were born?

Client: Inglewood

CSR: Where sir? In the woods? You were born in the woods? *(More possible that the telemarketer was the one born in the woods!)*

(Send your contributions to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph*)*

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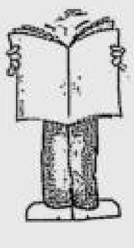

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IT company builds culture responsive to change

By Rochelle Leonor

HR Focus

THE REAL challenge is to build a culture that is responsive to change. Rina Jose Clamor believes that this is her primary responsibility as senior director for human resources of Navitaire.

Navitaire has a very specific niche. It provides IT solutions for the airline industry, specifically those in the European and North American regions. It designs applications for airline reservations, revenue accounting systems, and ticket distributions, among others. "To put it simpler, Navitaire is the Microsoft for the airline industry," Clamor smiles.

And since Navitaire relies on technology, it is vital to establish a culture that is forward-looking. There is a need to constantly improve and think of other ways to add value to its products and services.

PRA Solutions was the name of Navitaire when it started three years ago. It stands for Passenger Revenue Accounting. It used to be a part of Accenture before the management decided to spin it off.

Clamor explains what they do, "There are situations when a person would buy a ticket and upgrade it to a higher class. Sometimes, the buyer switches to another plane or doesn't fly at all. This makes the situation complicated for the airline." To make things easier for the airlines, Navitaire provides the application. Presently, it has more than 200 employees.

> *'Communication is important because if there is a need to implement changes in the company, she will need the support of the employees'*

Responsive organization

Clamor says that this makes her job interesting. Since Navitaire is a young company, it is easier for her to lay down the foundation of a responsive organization. "When you work for an established company, there is usually a high level of resistance when you introduce certain changes because the people are used to doing things," she explains. "Here, it's easier to make changes."

She explains that the organization is comprised of two operating groups. The development side develops the programs while the outsourcing side provides value-added services so the airlines can reduce their overhead expenses. The two divisions report to their corresponding superiors in the US headquarters.

Although she was primarily hired to take care of the Manila office, her responsibilities weren't confined here. Navitaire has recently set up offices in Prague and Sydney. Since the offices needed to start somewhere, she was asked to oversee its HR units.

Synergy

When Clamor was hired in 2002, she assumed the role of putting synergy to the two groups since the two operate independently. "Coincidentally, I am the most senior and the oldest among the employees," she jokes. "And for that, I am tasked to bring the two heads together. I serve as the middleman."

Then, when the Sydney office started, it needed to hire new people. But since it has no HR unit yet, the Manila office worked with them. Clamor, with her staff, developed the advertisement for Sydney, while the latter took care of posting in the Australian newspapers.

All applications, however, were forwarded to the Manila office. They did the resume screening and the initial interviews. "The process was cheaper than going to Sydney," she says. After shortlisting the candidates, all the Sydney managers needed to do was choose.

Clamor also aims to open lines of communication in Navitaire. Every week, she gathers a small group of people and talks with them. Dubbing it 'chat sessions,' she says she wants to establish rapport with them. She notes that this is important because if there is a need to implement changes in the company, she will need the support of the employees.

And every time the Manila office has visiting executives from the main office, her HR team organizes an all-employee meeting so they can all meet each other and discuss some concerns. "We want the Manila office to have a close relationship not only within ourselves, but also with the main office," Clamor says.

Track record

Although Clamor is relatively new to the company, she is not new to the people. Since most of the employees used to be part of Accenture, she feels right at home.

A few years back, she worked as Accenture's HR director. Not only did she manage Accenture employees in the Manila office, she also had to coordinate with the HR managers from other Accenture offices.

CLAMOR

PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

This brought her to a realm beyond the traditional HR management. "I got to see the similarities and differences of foreign offices." And this experience made her an excellent choice for Navitaire.

Before she joined Navitaire, she worked for different multinational companies, among them a pharmaceutical company.

It was in Ciba-Geigy (now Novartis) where she implemented a supervisory training program, wherein the supervisors were trained on how to effectively handle their people. Clearly interested in building a culture, Clamor felt there was a need for a continuous training program. "I wanted a culture that has the same way of dealing with people," she explains.

Clamor is a mother of three children and wife to Jesse, who manages his own real estate business. Whenever she has free time, she takes her family on short vacations. She also bakes gingerbread cakes for her children and helps them with their homework. Clamor says that while she wants to establish a responsive culture at work, at the same time, she also wants to foster a hands-on and loving culture at home.

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All application letters with comprehensive resumé should reach our office on or before February 14, 2003. Address applications to The National Project Coordinator, UNDP PH01/014 2/F TESDA Women's Center, TESDA Complex, East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila. Telefax Nos. 817-26-50 or 818-80-62. (Late submission of application letters will not be entertained).

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- Compensation and benefits administration
- Employee services

Qualifications

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Please send your complete resumé, 2x2 photo and salary expectations not later than February 18, 2003:

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Makati City 1200

by fax: (02) 759-6249
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needs a

Marketing Manager

The Job

To conceptualize and implement both domestic and international marketing and promotional campaigns for the Department of Tourism's various programs in line with **Visit Philippines 2003.**

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EHA Bldg. N. Aquino Ave. Parañaque City
(Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
Fax No. **879-3667**
E-Mail Add: **employment@dfp.com.ph**

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

VALENTINE OFFICE BLUES

Is romance a 'no' or 'go' at work?

By Bo Peep Franco, M.A. and Farida Pangan
Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD)

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

WORKPLACE romance elicits varied responses like simple curiosity, excitement, snide remarks and condemnation. It is a favorite topic of gossip usually transmitted at meal-times, through email and text. But how should employers and employees treat workplace romance? Should romance be accepted in the workplace or considered taboo? Should companies say "no" or "go" when it comes to love in the office?

The basic assumption is that employees should devote the greater part of their time and attention to their jobs. However, the workplace is undoubtedly a social setting in which interactions expectedly lead to attractions, friendships and relationships. As such, the deepening of some of these associations may be inevitable and could end up in a romance between employees. With the amount of time spent on the job, it is quite likely that a good number of people will meet their prospective spouses in the course of working together.

Survey results

To gain insights on workplace relationships, three questions were posted in the People at Work Pulse survey last month: (1) Have you ever had a romantic relationship with a co-worker? (2) What is your company's policy regarding work romances? (3) Do you believe companies should interfere with work romances?

Of the 51 readers who responded, fifty-three percent (53%) belonged to private organizations, twelve percent (12%) to NGOs/ government/ academe; and the rest did not indicate their place of work. Sixty one percent (61%) were females, twenty five percent (25%) were males, and the rest failed to mention their gender.

The results of the survey show that almost half or forty-five percent (45%) of the respondents had experienced a romantic relationship with a co-worker. Of those who had a romantic involvement, seventy-four percent (74%) revealed that the relationship did not last, while twenty-six percent (26%) eventually married.

The respondents reported varied employer's reactions to romantic relationships. More than half of the respondents (53%) believed that their employers do not care. Employers allowed workplace relationships only if the persons involved did not work in the same unit or department (33%). Other actions taken by the company included letting go of the employees concerned (8%) or interfering when the relationship adversely affected the employee's work performance (4%).

Majority of the respondents (60%) agreed that companies should not interfere as long as the romances are legitimate. Only twenty percent (20%) said that companies should interfere with office romances because companies are also a venue for shaping values.

Minor concern

The results of this mini-survey indicate that while workplace romance appears to be a "hot item" for conversation, it is not a major concern among Filipino employers and employees. However, it is recognized that when individuals work closely together, relationships are born and nurtured. An organization may be spared of some discord if it clearly states its position and sets guidelines for employee demeanor. A number of employers cover this in their Statement of Values or Code of Conduct, while others choose to be silent about it, addressing the matter on a case-to-case basis.

On the other hand, what can "love struck" employees do? Being discreet is perhaps a good starting point. And even if sympathetic colleagues cheer the lovers on, they should remember that the workplace is primarily a professional setting. If the relationship turns serious, inquire about company policy, acknowledge and respect it, even if it means that one or both will have to transfer or be separated from the company. And whether your "romance" ends happily or sadly, it is prudent to ensure that your work performance does not decline and your credibility remains intact.

(For more information on this research, please contact ateneocord @admu.edu.ph.*)*

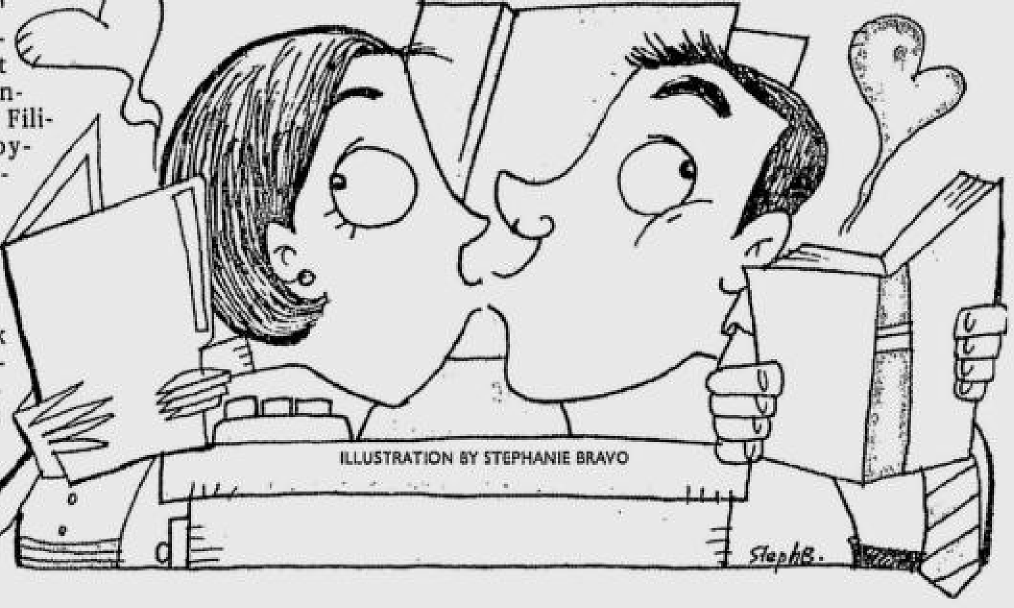
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

What's inside

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Working Wounded page I6
Working Oops page I6

MARKETING BRAND 'YOU'

Passion expands your personal universe

By Regina Galang Reyes

LAST week's article on "Discover your passion in life" generated passionate responses from our readers for more information. I hope the readers who requested for "Circles of Passion," a graphic illustration of my method in discovering your passion in life, find it useful.

Now, how do you get to the path from discovery of your passion to actually living it? Based on my experience, the path is long and filled with many obstacles and distractions. It is not an easy road. This is why, perhaps, at a certain crossroad in your life, you may have taken the more comfortable route instead of taking the path to passion. Pursuing it would have been too hard.

Paradox of passion

You think, "Why apply for a writing job? The pay is too low. I could get better pay as an account executive." And so, you went into sales. Now, after several years of pounding the streets and earning good money, you think, "Is this all there is to my life? I want to write but I can't give up the money I am earning right now." And the fire within you slowly dies.

The sad thing is, many people don't know that when you find your passion in life, paradigms change and boundaries of time and space are conquered. The outer limits of your world disappear as your personal universe expands into a galaxy of immense possibilities. This is the paradox of discovering your passion in life.

Steps to passion

To help you get on the path that leads to your passion, follow these steps:

Step 1. Identify the supporting factors and obstacles to creating passion in your life. For example, you want to go back to writing but you fear not earning enough income, are complacent in your present job, and have doubts about your ability to succeed in the new endeavor. Your supporting factors could be a substantial savings and a mentor in the media industry.

Step 2. Identify how you can overcome each obstacle by looking to your supporting factors. In this example, you could build your savings to support you during the transition from a sales job to a writing career. You could also ask your mentor to give you feedback on your writing to build self-confidence in your skills.

Step 3. Identify what you can do now that can give you a taste of your passion.

To flex your writing skills, you can start writing and submitting articles to magazines and newspapers on a weekly basis while keeping your sales job. This will feed the fire within you while waiting for the right time to go into a fulltime writing career.

Step 4. Set a time frame for completing the transition. Identify specific marker dates when you can achieve a part of your goal. You can give yourself two years to do writing on the side. Within this period, you would have developed your reputation as a writer making it easier for you to apply for writing jobs.

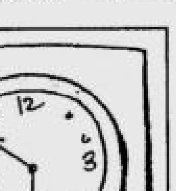
Step 5. Identify people who will support you in achieving your passion plan. You can source your champions from the network of media contacts that you would have established while doing your part-time writing work. Or, your supporters could be your family, friends and loved ones. They will give you advice and boost your morale as you tread the difficult path to passion.

Let passion into your life now. You'll find that somehow, it will blend the disparate areas of your life –your work, your family, your leisure—into a life that reflects the wholeness of your spirit and the boundless possibilities of being.

(Email rreyes@inquirer.com.ph *for a copy of the "Circles of Passion" or advice on job hunting. You can also tune in every Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. to 66.6 on your AM dial for "People at Work sa DZRH" hosted by the author, Reggie Reyes, former DOLE secretary Atty. Benny Laguesma and broadcasters Ruth Abao Espinosa and Andy Verde.)*

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL



A different breakfast

By Teresa R. Tunay

IN OUR terms, Jesus would be labeled a workaholic. He would work the whole day, healing, teaching, preaching, and after sunset he would still work "overtime"—curing many more and casting demons out of the possessed.

The next day would be just like the day before—attending to the sick and the ignorant. Just like you and me, always on the same daily grind yesterday, today and tomorrow. But there's a big difference.

Where most of us would probably race against the clock to beat the morning rush, Jesus would "rise very early before dawn" and go away to pray. Long before anybody else was up, he would make time to be alone—and God's alone. He prepared for another working day by first nourishing himself in the Father's company. Jesus would "eat" prayer for breakfast, thus filling himself with stamina that our coffee and *tapsilog* can never give us.

No matter what third millennium energizers we use as substitute, nothing can beat prayer in Jesus' way to start the day.

Okay, okay, this is 2003 and we don't have the luxury of that "deserted place" for praying, but neither do we ride donkeys to work anymore. The Lord is risen—making it possible for us to find that "deserted place" right within us, whether we're on the LRT, taking a coffee break, or getting stuck writing a report.

Not all of us are lucky enough to have chapels in our workplaces, but we can be in the Father's presence always! We have but to believe.

(E-mail the author at avemaria@csi.com.ph.*)*

NOTHING Beats PRAYER
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Gospel: Mk. 1: 29-39

"He (Jesus) cured many who were sick with various diseases, and drove out many demons. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.."

Workplace with a soul

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IN SOME companies, exercises to condition the workers for the day's performance are part of the work schedule. These drills are meant to prepare the workers physically and mentally for an efficient and productive day.

Companies, which introduced this practice, claim higher gains than those posted by companies that make their workers "just work and work." The latter seems to forget that workers are human beings and not machines.

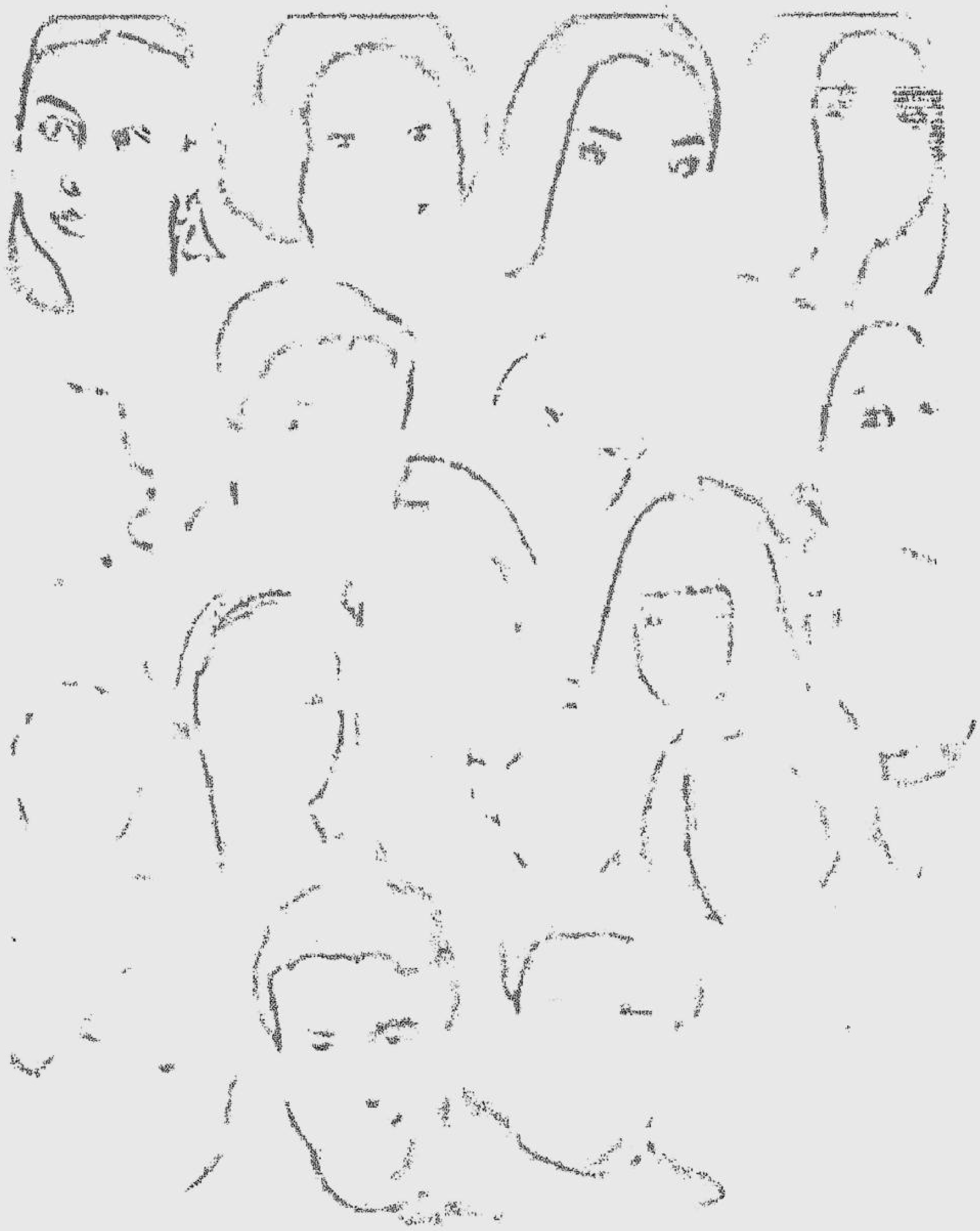
Human beings need to replenish the energies spent in work. After a period of hard work, we need time to rest, time to unwind, time to re-focus ourselves—time to pray.

Yes, praying is not just asking God for graces that we need. It is also spending moments when one can rest, unwind, or re-focus oneself. Jesus too worked hard curing the sick, driving out many demons and then went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. If Jesus, the Son of God who became man like us, needed times for prayer, how much more ordinary men?

People, not just machines and technology, make the workplace alive. Thus, some companies spend money for the spiritual exercises of their workers—human beings with body and soul.

This may seem to be a non-profitable investment for profit-oriented companies. But companies following the example of Jesus in giving primary importance to the spirit will surely experience a more satisfying kind of profit. Is your workplace with a soul?

(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net.*)*



"Kaibigan Habang Buhay"

An ABS-CBN TV special featuring the past and present personalities who made Unilever's brands famous

Watch for it tonight, February 9, 2003, 9:30 p.m. ABS-CBN

Unilever

75 Years in the Philippines

75 Years of Beauti

Unilever Philippines, for the past 75 years, has strived to be a part of Filipino lives everyday and everywhere. The company's unforgettable brand names have become synonymous with good food, healthy and clean homes, self-confidence, beauty, and love.

Lux, Breeze, Close-Up, Rexona, Surf, Knorr, and Selecta, are just some of the brands Unilever is famous for. They have become as attached to the Filipino's hearts and minds as the faces of those who have helped introduce them --- the beautiful, interesting, and captivating personalities who have endorsed the different Unilever brands throughout these years.

Lux, the brand most linked with beauty, has always featured Philippine cinema's most beautiful faces. In the 1960's Amalia Fuentes, Daisy Romualdez, Susan Roces, Helen Gamboa, Gina Pareño, and Rosemarie Sonora introduced the creamy facial cleansing bar.

Touted the Elizabeth Taylor of the Philippines, Amalia Fuentes was always known to be an intellectual woman ahead of her time. In a period where leading ladies were typecast as sweet, charming, and helpless damsels, she fought her way into developing roles that went out-of-the-box. Eventually breaking free from Sampaguita Pictures, she was the first Filipina actress to turn independent and form a studio of her own. With AM Productions, she went on to experiment with what could have damaged her superstar status, tackling roles that centered on a woman's other side. To this day, totally out of show business but definitely still in its limelight, she continues to handle life's challenges with the same logic, spunk, and candor she has been known for.

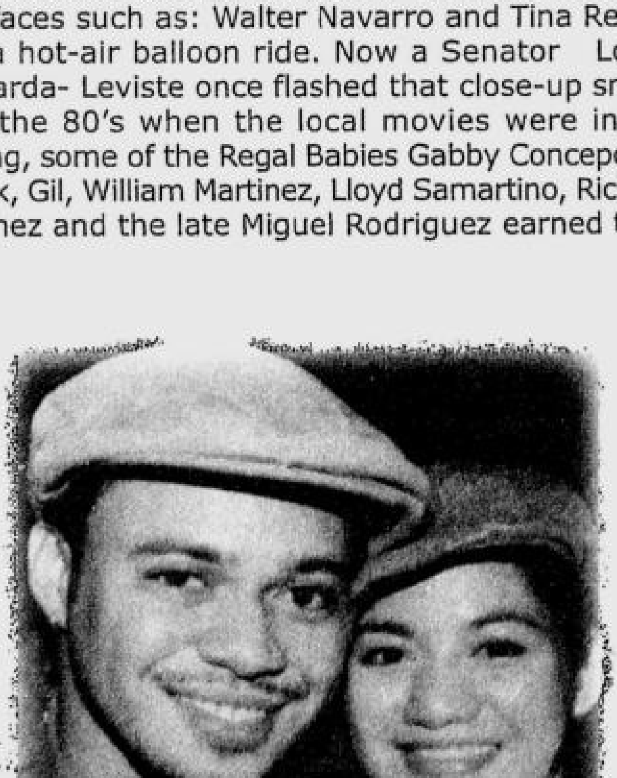
FPJ's precious gem, Susan Roces continues to mystify and intrigue the public even

Close-up

Stolen glances, chance encounters, "kilig" moments of the awkward teen years... growing up with the toothpaste that understands what those moments feel like. Close-Up captured those moments and also put them in music. More so, the models who've come out in the television commercials found a lot of doors opening for them... In the late 1960's Close-up was introduced and consumers welcomed the new choice. In the 70's it established a precedent in product introduction and set the trend in non-traditional methods of distribution. Time was when 'Close-Up Girls', dressed in red tops and white mini-skirts distributed the products in schools, supermarkets and shopping centers.

Some of the awkward moments in the television commercials were portrayed by memorable Close-Up faces such as: Walter Navarro and Tina Revilla on a hot-air balloon ride. Now a Senator Loren Legarda- Leviste once flashed that close-up smile.

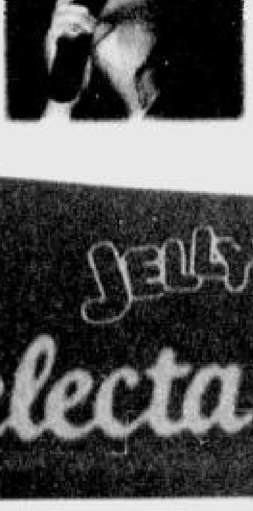
In the 80's when the local movies were in full swing, some of the Regal Babies Gabby Concepcion, Mark, Gil, William Martinez, Lloyd Samartino, Richard Gomez and the late Miguel Rodriguez earned their 10-seconds of fame via Close-Up. As for the ladies... Alice Dixson, Debbie Miller, Mia Pratts, Rita Avila, Jobelle Salvador, Peachy Sacasas, Plinky Recto, Belinda Panelo and Heart Evangelista all got the Close-Up confidence. While Dawn Zulueta and Ton Ton Gutierrez shared a roller-coaster ride, as now Congressman Miguel Zubiri was kissingly close with Cheska Diaz.



As the faces of Close-up endorsers flash before your eyes, the tunes roll along with them. Jingle/ songs like "You're just a smile away...(from the same titled song originally sung by Jaime Garchitorena) and "Give it time, just a little more time, so we can get closer..."("Closer You & I" sung by Gino Padilla) come to mind coupled with vignettes of memories. These jingles go beyond the 30 or 60 seconds and have become anthems of some of the awkward, otherwise known as Close-Up moments of youth.

And in celebration of its 35 years, Close-Up together with BMG records put together all the well-loved songs in the album titled, Break Barriers.... Best-loved Close-Up ditties such as "Just A Smile Away," originally sung by Jaime Garchitorena, is interpreted in this album by Luke Mejares; "Closer You and I," originally sung by Gino Padilla, is given a new flavor by Anna Fegi; "Got To Get Close to You" by Neocolours is Cooky Chua's piece; "I Wanna Get Close to You," Freestyle and Kyla's duet, is Kyla's very own danceable version; and "Closer To You Baby" by Freestyle is given Radha's soulful rendition. These, along with Rachel Alejandro's version of "(They Long To Be) Close To You," a re-mixed version of the Ariel Rivera original "Close In On Love," and a solo saxophone piece by Dix Lucero of "Just A Smile Away," plus With A Smile" by Eraserheads and "Heaven in Your Smile" by Chad Borja and Alecx Estrada.- all form part of BMG's new release.

Just like the appeal of music to the youth, Close-up remains to be the preferred toothpaste of the young. And just like the nostalgia of music, Close-Up evolves and improves with the times. It adapts itself to the oral care regimen as it plays a jingle and captures that memorable Close-Up moment. And you'll get a chance to hear the new versions of the Close-Up songs tonight as the 75th Anniversary special airs on ABS-CBN.



Dove SUNSILK Rexona LUX JELLY POPS
Cream Silk Close up AXE Selecta 3-in-1

ful Faces in Philippine Ads

in her rare public appearances, with the same poise, bearing, and charm she was known for. Although semi-retired from the film industry, and seemingly quite content being Mrs. Fernando Poe, Jr., she continues to generate a buzz wherever she goes.

The screen goddess of the 60's, Daisy Romualdez is best remembered for her portrayals of coquette women. She continues to leave a mark wherever she goes with an indefinable presence, still carrying the same glamour associated with stars of her time.

Helen Gamboa reigned in the 60's for her song-and-dance roles. She has continuously re-invented herself as an actress, proving all the way, that the swinging singer has quite a range as an actress. Still quite a sight, this senator's wife was until recently, part of a primetime soap opera.

Beauty queen-turned actress, Gina Pareño was the screen temptress of the 60's. Varied roles since then – rich, poor, troubled, shallow – could never totally overshadow her beauty.

Rosemarie Sonora was the most celebrated Sampaguita Pictures star, the studio's own princess. Even dressed down and screaming when roles called for it, her flawless skin and ingénue beauty shone through the screen.

The 70's Lux commercials ushered in a new set of beauties in Hilda Koronel, Maricar Zaldarianga, Lally Aldeguer, Star for all Seasons Vilma Santos, and Ms Universe 1969, Gloria Diaz. Known for their breathtaking beauty that flowed from their striking personalities, all these women went on to stand out in their respective areas. At present, Hilda, Vilma, and Gloria continue to leave hearts trailing after them, growing in both beauty and substance through the decades.

With the brand's relaunch in 1985 came a fresh batch of beauties, both definitely stars. Megastar Sharon Cuneta and Pop Diva Kuh Ledesma personified the new Lux. Joining them

were then-presidential daughter Kris Aquino in 1987, and songbird Regine Velasquez in 1989, showcasing Lux's range of benefits for all "types".

Lux in the 1990's showed a new kind of dynamism with the addition of concert queen Pops Fernandez, MTV vj Donita Rose, versatile actress Carmina Villaroel, ethereal beauty Lucy Torres, and singer Donna Cruz, also known as the younger Hilda Koronel.

These women are some of the country's most memorable and enduring beauties in local cinema, who's strength, character, and drive, have made them even more beautiful. Lux brings some of these women together for the first time, in a special number in Unilever's much-awaited 75th Anniversary special to be telecast tonight, February 9, on ABS-CBN.

Selecta:

Following the Pinoy's Heart

In 1999, Unilever Philippine's partnership with RFM's Selecta ice cream propelled the brand even closer to the hearts of Filipino ice cream lovers. Unilever's significant share of the ice cream market worldwide brought into Selecta its expertise in knowing the pulse of consumers and keeping their interest keen on their products.

With quality ingredients and flavors as the ice cream brand's signature, it has had no less than local entertainment's most popular stars and endorsers, Megastar Sharon Cuneta and dreamboat Aga Mulach carrying its slogan, "Selecta -- you simply must". Both known for having discriminating taste, excellent business sense, and loyalty to both friends and fans, Sharon's and Aga's strong following has for the past years, driven even further the market leadership Selecta has already gained with its consistency and innovation in both taste and marketing ideas.

Now called Selecta Wall's, the brand continues to introduce novel concepts, further refine existing ice cream ideas, and delight the taste buds of the Filipino. With its new logo showing the familiar "Selecta" and a double heart, popular electronic tune heralding the approach of the numerous standout ice cream carts, and new and exciting flavors and "take-home" variants added to the comfort flavors that classics have become, the new and improved Selecta definitely has the consumer as top of mind and remains in the consumer's top-of-mind in the area of ice cream.

Just as the faces of Sharon and Aga are recognized beyond the shores of our Islands, so is the name that has become the biggest ice cream business in South East Asia.

Toast to Selecta's success as Unilever Philippines celebrates its 75th anniversary featuring some of the company's biggest endorsers, at 9:30 tonight

Cornetto Got Carried Away with JM Rodriguez... a.k.a. "Vinny"

The Cornetto brand and agency team were at a loss on choosing the "right" person for the Cornetto archetype, "Vinny". The character was in demand of a true-blooded "Nexer", a teenager in the process of growing up into a young adult, who, with the "Carpe Diem!" (i.e. Seize the day!) outlook in life would be ready to face the uncertainties that his complicated adulthood would unfold. Not exactly an easy job for McCann's casters at that time as countless wannabes auditioned for the role.

But when JM Rodriguez's image was projected on-screen, everyone knew he was "it". He had just finished playing the lead character in the stage-play "Rent" then and was on the brink of starting out his own television career when McCann spotted him out. Indeed, who could ignore JM's own brand of style, acting, musical talent, and not to mention, his boy-next-door charisma?

Proof positive of JM's success as an endorser is the Bronze Award received by the Selecta Cornetto Ad Campaign in the New York Festival's Advertising and Marketing Effectiveness Awards 2000. The winning campaign edged out 13,000 entries worldwide, contending with stiff competition in the Food, Confectionery, and Snacks Category.

Nearly three years since he portrayed "Vinny", quite a number of consumers still remember JM's signature "killer-porma" strut, and the comical acrobatic "split" he performed just to get the girl of his dreams.

Though no longer the anxious "Nexer" that he used to portray, in reel and real life, JM has already achieved local and international stardom as the lead in the Singapore production of "Rent", as a Studio 23 VJ, and as a much sought after television host and singer.

Are these the works of eating a cup of Cornetto? It certainly helps, coupled with sheer belief in one's natural talent and the euphoric zeal to be a cut above the rest.

(by Grace del Callar, Selecta Wall's)

Take Two! Ice Drop Breeze Lipton Surf Knorr POND'S

paddle pop PiNiPiG Ice Tea Vaseline Domex Comfort

The Unforgettable Laundry Soap Commercials

Familiar and endearing personalities is nothing new in the area of laundry detergents. As much as the product is an essential in Filipino households everywhere, the varied talents and storyboards used in every Unilever laundry detergent ad stayed in the hearts and minds of Filipinos for years.

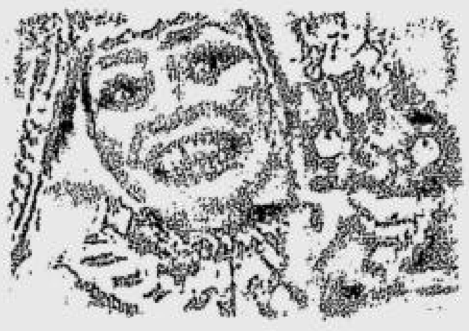
Who can forget endorsements made by the likes of the late Ms. Nida Blanca and Mayor Vilma Santos, both unbeatable stars, broadcast journalists Ces Drilon and Arnold Clavio, government figure Mita Pardo De Tavera, and designers Lulu Tan Gan and Carla Sabal -- for clean, bright, and spotless laundry with Breeze, with their equally spotless integrity? Also permanently stamped in our minds are the funny and endearing one-liners like, "magpatuka nalang ako sa ahas" delivered by Superwheel endorser Elizabeth Ramsey, and the ingenious laundry travails of famous literary characters like Snow White and Ali Baba as opposed to the usual harassed housewife typical of TV commercials of similar products? Faces of established names from showbiz, Coney Reyes, Ric Rodrigo, Mitch Valdez, Apeng Daldal, Bayani Casimiro, Lucita Soriano, Orly Mercado, Celia Rodriguez, Coney Angeles, Jackie Lou Blanco, Lotis Key, Larry Silva, Gloria Romero, Marissa Delgado, Elizabeth Ramsey, Joey De Leon and Lily Miraflor immortalized characters in these television commercials.

In more recent years, when Surf was introduced, Buddy Norton had the character of the man on the street, while Robert Arevalo and Perla Bautista were also engaged for the laundry detergent.

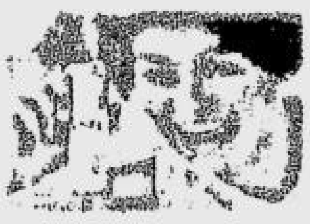
Today, true to the addiction to telenovela storylines, the Filipino TV audience looks forward to each new episode in Surf's continuing story revolving around the classic situation of a young wife having to compete with her mother-in-law for her husband's affection. The characters of the endearing wa-is housewife Lumen and the tough-to-beat Lola Obang are etched in our consciousness as much as the faces of the personalities who portray these roles.

As much as Lola Obang will go down as one of Unilever's most memorable characters, morena head-turner January Isaac, although dressed down to personify the middle-class housewife, is definitely among the roster of Unilever beauties. Witness Unilever's tribute to both beauty and wit with some of these familiar names and faces, in its grand anniversary special, "Kaibigan Habang Buhay", to be telecast at 9:30 pm tonight on ABS-CBN.

100% confidence



Rexona Still Won't Let You Down



When Rexona was launched in the early 1980's as part of Unilever's Personal Care products expansion, the line, "Rexona... won't let you down" made its mark. Through its constant improvements over the years– from the big ball roll-on deodorant to the squeeze bottle deo/anti-perspirant to the easy swipe deostick of today – the brand, through its TV commercials, has also consistently churned up fresh, confident faces.

Rexona has noticeably helped kick-off the showbiz careers of talents like Tanya Garcia, Marc Nelson, Ryan Agoncillo, and Heart Evangelista, for starters.

The same can be said for some today's hottest male stars. Long before the term belonged to any handsome face, multi-awarded actor Cesar Montano was a Rexona boy. So were actor/rapper Carlos Agassi, and heartthrobs Cogie Domingo and Danilo Barrios. Although very brief at 10 to 15 seconds per commercial, playing the lead in the deodorant commercials gave them fame and popularity that fueled their showbiz careers.

Each of their commercials conveyed the cool confidence of a Rexona user and this connected with the viewers — Cesar on a motorcycle, Carlos tossing pizza dough, Cogie winning a girl's heart, and Danilo being the core of his groupmates. This same connection and recall worked with the "mic"commercial of Rexona's easy swipe bottle. — this time with five cool, confident, and buff towel-clad boys in a locker room lip-synching and dancing to "Everybody" by the Backstreet Boys. Although a group effort, these boys got their own whirlwind ride through the doors of stardom. Now called the Power boys, nothing gets their fans into a screaming frenzy as much as a song-and-dance number similar to the one they did in their catchy Rexona TV ad.

The Power Boys bring back memories of the ad that catapulted them into the hearts of consumers all over the country in a special number in Unilever Philippines' 75th Anniversary special, "Kaibigan Habang Buhay" on ABS-CBN tonight at 9:30 pm.

Bestfoods Comes Alive with Bentong

Remember the TV ad with a precocious little boy having an english cliché repartee with his mother over a cheese spread sandwich? Or perhaps this same little boy offering a merienda of spaghetti to his friend in his humble abode? Both ads have two major things in common: they feature products by Unilever Bestfoods (Say Cheese and Bestfoods Spaghetti) and they have an endearing endorser in the person of Xavier Louise Cumilang, XL for short but better known as BENTONG. 5-year old Bentong has endeared himself to a lot of TV viewers because of his "bibo" ways; this his mother attests is his personality on and off-cam. XL's appearance as Bentong is his very first venture into TV commercial modeling. Since his discovery, he has appeared in several TV shows.

Meantime, XL is living his Bentong character to the hilt. True to his ad's tagline "May 'say' ka na sa buhay", Bentong advises everyone "Bumili kayo ng Best Foods Say Cheese at Best Foods Spaghetti, mura na, masarap pa!"
The cute and disarming Bentong is part of the many Unilever talents featured in ABS-CBN's special celebrating Unilever Philippines' 75th anniversary to be telecast tonight at 9:30 p.m.

About Unilever in the Philippines

Known until a few years ago as Philippine Refining Company (PRC), Unilever in the Philippines started as an oil milling business which at its peak produced nearly 100,000 tons of coconut oil annually. Today the company is a leading manufacturer of home and personal care products, foods, and ice cream.

The business has grown from strength to strength with the presence of its three operating companies: Unilever Philippines, Selecta Wall's, and California Manufacturing Company.

Proud of its 75 years of heritage in the Philippines, Unilever is dedicated to growing its operations in the country in the future.

Unilever 75 Years in the Philippines

Lifebuoy Cornetto Best Foods Say Cheeez! Suave Royal Karo Skippy alsa

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

sunday INQUIRER magazine

February 9, 2003

Love, Kris

You've got to hand it to Kris Aquino. Despite her tempestuous romantic history, a recent break-up with Joey Marquez, and the latest news linking her to cager Romel Adducul, she [illegible] on her sleeve.

HER efforts to find Mr. Right have landed her the wrong guys, the stuff of tabloid headlines and gossip talk shows. But Kris Aquino remains unfazed by the controversies her love life has generated. When she falls in love, she falls hard, she admits. And despite the bruises, she adds, she's not afraid to love again.

"I never say never," Kris says. "It's never too late to learn."

Her mother, former President Corazon C. Aquino, is convinced that her youngest in a brood of five is the "female reincarnation" of her husband, slain senator Benigno Aquino, Jr.

"For me to have a happy marriage, my mom says I have to find a male Cory," says Kris. "That means somebody who is supportive, the wind beneath my wings, genuinely kind, compassionate and very patient." A guy like that would make a good partner for her, she adds. "He has to be like that so he can bear to love me."

After living for five years with action star Phillip Salvador, with whom she has a love child, Joshua, Kris got involved with Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez early last year. For that, she got quite a mouthful from the mayor's erstwhile partner, actress Alma Moreno, who called her a *kabit* (mistress) to her face. The romance, however, ended last month, and there's nobody special in her life right now, she insists. "And I'm not saying that for the sake of advertisers in my TV programs or for my mom," Kris says.

"I've also realized you just can't have it all. You can't have a career and a passionate love life at the same time because you don't have the time."

Her romance with Joey ended Jan. 27, exactly four years after she called it quits with Phillip, a coincidence, she adds. And no, she parted ways with Joey not because of rumors linking him with actress Jackie Forster, who is herself estranged from cager-husband Benjie Paras.

"I cannot give Joey what he wants," Kris says. "He wants someone who is domesticated and subservient, and that's not me. If he's really the one for me, and he has gotten his annulment, when everything is settled and I've fulfilled my dreams, maybe we can be together again and I can be the woman that he needs."

Kris admits, though, that she recently went out on a date with cager Romel Adducul, who will debut with the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) later this month, playing for the Ginebra team. Romel, the former boyfriend of sexy actress Assunta de Rossi, was a two-time MVP for the Wel-

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Kris ...from page 1

coat team in the Philippine Basketball League.

Kris and Romel watched Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me If You Can" at Greenbelt 3 just four days after she broke off with Joey. For a change, Kris is dating a single guy, although she says she is not ready to plunge into another serious relationship just yet. "We're in that stage where we're not ready for any serious commitment."

She admits that she was initially hesitant to go out with Romel because of their age difference. He is 27, she is turning 32 on Feb. 14 (how appropriate). "But he's single, kind, and prayerful because he's a Born-Again Christian. We talk mostly about God, but I don't mind."

Boy Abunda, Kris' co-host in ABS-CBN's showbiz-oriented show, "The Buzz," introduced her to Romel who, Boy had learned earlier, has a huge crush on her. "But at that time, I was still involved," Kris reveals. It took some time before they could get together.

Now that she's free, expect the gossip mills to work overtime. Already, purveyors of intrigue are quick to hype her upcoming movie "You and Me Against the World," with erstwhile flame Robin Padilla. Will the movie rekindle their romance? She thinks not.

"It's fun shooting with Robin because we've known each other half of our lives. I met him when I was 16 and I fell in love with him when I was 21. So we keep recalling so many things together."

While the movie involves her in a passionate kissing scene with Robin, she shrugs off any complications. "I was very comfortable doing it with him because he knows me and I know him. Before we shot the scene, he told me he even went to the dentist for cleaning and *naka-limang mumog siya ng* Astring-o-Sol (he washed his mouth five times with Astring-o-Sol) prior to the take."

Since she bagged the best supporting actress trophy for "*Mano Po,*" Kris has been swamped with acting offers. Her role was meant for Ara Mina, with Assunta de Rossi playing the lead role until she decided to get married instead. "Thanks to Assunta," Kris says. "If she didn't get married, Ara wouldn't have gotten her role and I would not have gotten Ara's role."

Her mother, she adds, believes that she deserves the acting award. "When we guested in Martin Nievera's late-night show, she said it was 'pure, beautiful and unadulterated acting' on my part because I'm not *mabait*. 'If only she could be that in real life,'" Kris narrates, quoting her mom.

After wrapping up her movie with Robin, she is set to start "*Kung Ako Na Lang Sana,*" with Vic Sotto, who was similarly linked to her in the past.

Will she again do a movie with Phillip after their first and only team-up in "*Nandito Ako,*" where their romance bloomed in 1994?

"Yes," Kris shoots back without batting an eyelash. "That's not a problem with me. I can even do a tele-series with him." In fact, she had previously guested in Phillip's now-defunct action-drama series, "Verano" on GMA 7, and had starred with him in an episode of "*Maalaala Mo Kaya*" for ABS-CBN.

"We're okay now," Kris says of her ex. "We're not super close but we're more than civil. He was so proud of me when I won the acting award for '*Mano Po.*' " He is also an involved father to their son, Josh, who is turning 8 in June.

"The things that I don't get to do with Josh because of my busy schedule, Ipe gets to do with him," Kris says. "They swim. They watch movies, like 'The Hot Chick' recently and they always eat out. They often go to Gloria Maris or Italianni's, which are Josh's favorite dining places. When Josh *naman* is with me, we always go to a Japanese restaurant. Because of how good Ipe is to Josh, he has my 100 percent respect."

Josh also had a good time bonding with Phillip's three kids from New York with estranged wife Sony Dabao, who were in town during the holidays. "They really treated Josh like a younger brother. They even gave him DVDs of Disney movies."

The news that Phillip has a new, non-showbiz girlfriend who is a successful businesswoman doesn't bother Kris anymore. "I'm happy for him. I haven't met or seen the girl. We don't talk about it and I don't ask. It's been four years."

Lately, Kris has been coping with a frenzied schedule. She tapes Wednesdays and Fridays for her daily game show "Game *Ka Na Ba?*" and shoots movies on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, usually after doing live hosting chores on her daily "Morning Girls" program with Korina Sanchez. Then, she hosts "The Buzz" on Sundays.

Fellow actress Maricel Soriano once commented that Kris doesn't have to work hard for the money. But Kris doesn't mind the hard work. "I want to own and achieve so many things. This year, my goal is to buy this lot in Capitol Hills, where I live. But today, in our 'Morning Girls' episode about feng-shui, I learned this is not a good year for me to buy unless I'm very, very sure about land titles.

"But the owner of the lot is the friend of (my hairdresser) Bambbi Fuentes and Tatus Aldana, who's been my friend for 16 years. We're still haggling over the price. The lot is less than 500 square meters but I'll be happy there. I'll build not my dream house, but a comfortable home for me and Josh."

For her 32nd birthday on Valentine's Day, Kris recently gifted herself with a Mark III van.

"I work 16- or 18-hour days," Kris says. "The remaining free time I want to spend with Josh. That's why I bought the Mark III because Josh can sleep there while waiting for me during shooting. It's not a healthy environment, but it has a VHS player and TV so he can watch his favorite Disney movies while I work."

Her birthday celebration on "Game *Ka Na Ba?*" will be a two-week event, with guest celebrities Maricel Soriano, Nora Aunor, Boy Abunda, Robin Padilla and brothers Eric, Epy and Vandolph Quizon. She will get to wear gowns by Rajo Laurel and JC Buendia. "I'm worried *nga* that viewers might say, 'Doesn't TV have anything else but Kris' birthday?,'" she says.

As a birthday treat to her "Game *Ka Na Ba?*" staff, Kris is taking them again to Hacienda Luisita and then to Manaoag for a pilgrimage, a reprise of what they did last year.

But Kris has managed to take three days off from her busy calendar to go to Hong Kong with Josh and some friends. "I'm going on a very short vacation because I work every day."

But her dream vacation is a cruise on a luxury liner for herself and her son. "Not that I love boats, but Zsa Zsa (Padilla) was telling me how fun the Star Cruise was. The ship *daw* has so many swimming pools and the food is great. Those are Josh's ultimate joys, swimming and eating. And we want to do that for Holy Week."

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

Familiarity Breeds Reality

Being together every single day, I began to see the real him. Now I'm torn between loving him as he is and leaving him before I suffer the same fate as my mom did with my dad

Dear Joe,

I'm hiding under the name Becky. I'm 25 and have been dating my boyfriend Dennis for three years now. We are a picture-perfect couple, the ones who look like they'll end up at the altar and living happily ever after.

At first that was my dream and my reality. I lived and breathed for him alone. Some late nights when he had to work overtime, I would wait up for him no matter how late just to hear his voice. It was a blissful relationship at the start. And just when I thought something good seemed endless, things started to happen.

I work at a bank and requested for a transfer to a branch near Dennis' office, getting the approval a few months later. Ever since the transfer, we started seeing more of each other. We came to work together, ate lunch together, went home together.

Being together every single day, I began to see the real him. I saw his bad habits, the way he leaves his things scattered all over his desk, the way he easily loses his temper. One time he even shouted at me in public because he was not in a good mood. He apologized after the incident, but the deed was already done.

You see, Joe, my dad has a problem with his temper. When I was a kid, I used to cry to my mom whenever my dad shouted at us. I remember asking my mom why she married a man like my daddy. And she just said that theirs was a pre-arranged marriage which was common at the time. And at that young age, I told my mother that, when I grow up, I would neither marry nor fall in love with a man like my father.

Do you believe that saying about girls unwittingly choosing men like their fathers? Now, I see my dad in Dennis. The way he looks at things in life—his narrow-mindedness, the temper, the difficulty in reasoning with him when he feels he's right. Even the way he handles money. It's like I'm looking at a person slowly unraveling before my eyes.

Now I'm torn between loving him as he is and leaving him before I suffer the same fate my mom did with my dad. Ever since I fell in love with him, I felt he was the only man for me. But at the same time I'm so afraid that I will end up the way my mom did, suffering 30 years of keeping silent whenever my dad unleashed his temper. I know no two people are the same, and I know that talking to Dennis about my fears may ease his temper for now, but who can say he'll suppress his outbursts the rest of our lives? Should I choose to listen to my heart, or should I choose to listen to my mind? My mind says no because of fear, but my heart says I love him and that love will make a difference. I'm so afraid to make the wrong decision and regret it for the rest of my life.

Love,
Becky

Dear Becky,

Becky, I know you're in a tough situation. You witnessed how your mom suffered in silence everytime your dad gets angry, and you wouldn't want to find yourself in the same situation. But we are talking about the man you love and the man you want to spend your life with. Your parents' marriage was arranged. If given the choice, both of them might have married someone else. You cannot compare your relationship with Dennis to theirs. You and Dennis were bound by love. Your mom and dad were bound by the obligation to obey their own parents than by love.

Becky, there will never be a perfect boyfriend or husband. Even if you find someone who isn't like your dad, it will still not be a guarantee that you will not be miserable in marriage. Many have fallen into believing they have found Mr. Right only to realize in the end that they have vowed to live the rest of their lives with an irresponsible, selfish and cold-hearted husband.

Before God calls us in marriage, He would want us to be sure of our decision and make us realize that once we say yes, there is no turning back. Becky, this is your test. You were brought closer to Dennis so that you can see deeper into his personality. Now that God has shown you who Dennis really is, He wants you to look into your heart. If you think you don't have enough love to accept him for what he is then you know which way to take. But if your love is strong enough to overcome your fear then this relationship is a risk worth taking.

Becky, there is no love that comes with a "pain-free" guarantee. We simply have to accept that getting hurt will always be part of loving someone. It is a given that we cannot change. Something that we just have to deal with when it comes. Talk to Dennis and give him the chance. A person who truly loves you will try his best not to do things that he knows will hurt you. Change is inevitable and the one who loves you sincerely is bound to change for the better and not for the worst.

Becky, when the time comes that you have to make a decision, listen to both your heart and your mind and blame no one for the choice that you make. If you are confused, pray for guidance, for only God knows what's best for us. Let us always remember that what we will regret are not the things that we did out of love but the things we missed because we were too afraid to get ourselves hurt.

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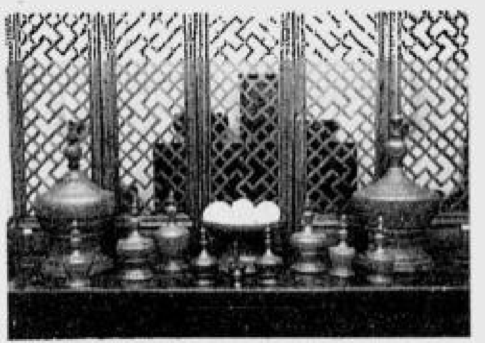

CHINESE NEW YEAR SALE Old Asia, one of the country's finest Asian furniture dealers, greets the Year of the Goat with a month-long sale. The items on sale range from grand antique setpieces to little old trinkets and charms. Showrooms are located at the 2/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center and at Level 4, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Sale runs until Feb. 28. For inquiries, call 898-1314

A VOTE FOR STEPH

There was someone more deserving of front-page exposure in last Sunday's (**SIM**, January 26, 2003) issue.

That was Stephanie Syjuco, the international artist. So young yet already having achieved so much, she deserved better treatment.

It is sad that we missed Steph's work at the Metropolitan Museum in Manila last year. But it is even sadder that we can no longer claim her totally as our own, since she has opted for American citizenship. A decision she was compelled to make, as adequately explained in End Page. But the fact remains that she is of Filipino ancestry which cannot be renounced or taken away.

It was also purely circumstantial that she didn't plant her roots in this country. That's why, it was understandable that in her last visit as an adult, she eventually found her roots, not in the Philippines where she was born, but in America where she has lived since she was age 3.

Nevertheless, like her relatives and friends, we also take great pride in Steph. And wish her more success and continued good health.

We do not mean to be unnecessarily cruel, but that piece about the aspiring bold star should not have been given such prominence. It should have been buried in the inside pages, instead, in deference to your readers, most of whom, if not all, do not go so much for such stuff. While we believe in press freedom, we also believe that items like those are better read in tabloids, which capitalize on them, and not in a respectable, prestigious and widely-read broadsheet like yours.

We are no trying-hard elitists. Neither are we being self-righteous or prudish. We are simply concerned about the young, the more impressionable ones, who might have perused that article and picked up the wrong values.

HANNAH LILIAN M. VICENTE
46 Sunburst St., SSS Village
1811 Marikina City

A VOTE FOR KATYA

I am an avid fan of Ms. Katya Santos and I really have a crush on her. I am a medical doctor and at present I am a school administrator. Katya has gained popularity both in our school, and most of the students (high school and college) are saying that she is a different sex symbol. She is a symbol for the new type of typical young college girl—easy-going, not so complicated and cool. I can remember the song of Cindy Lauper—"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun."

DR. RAY ADALEM
St. Clare College
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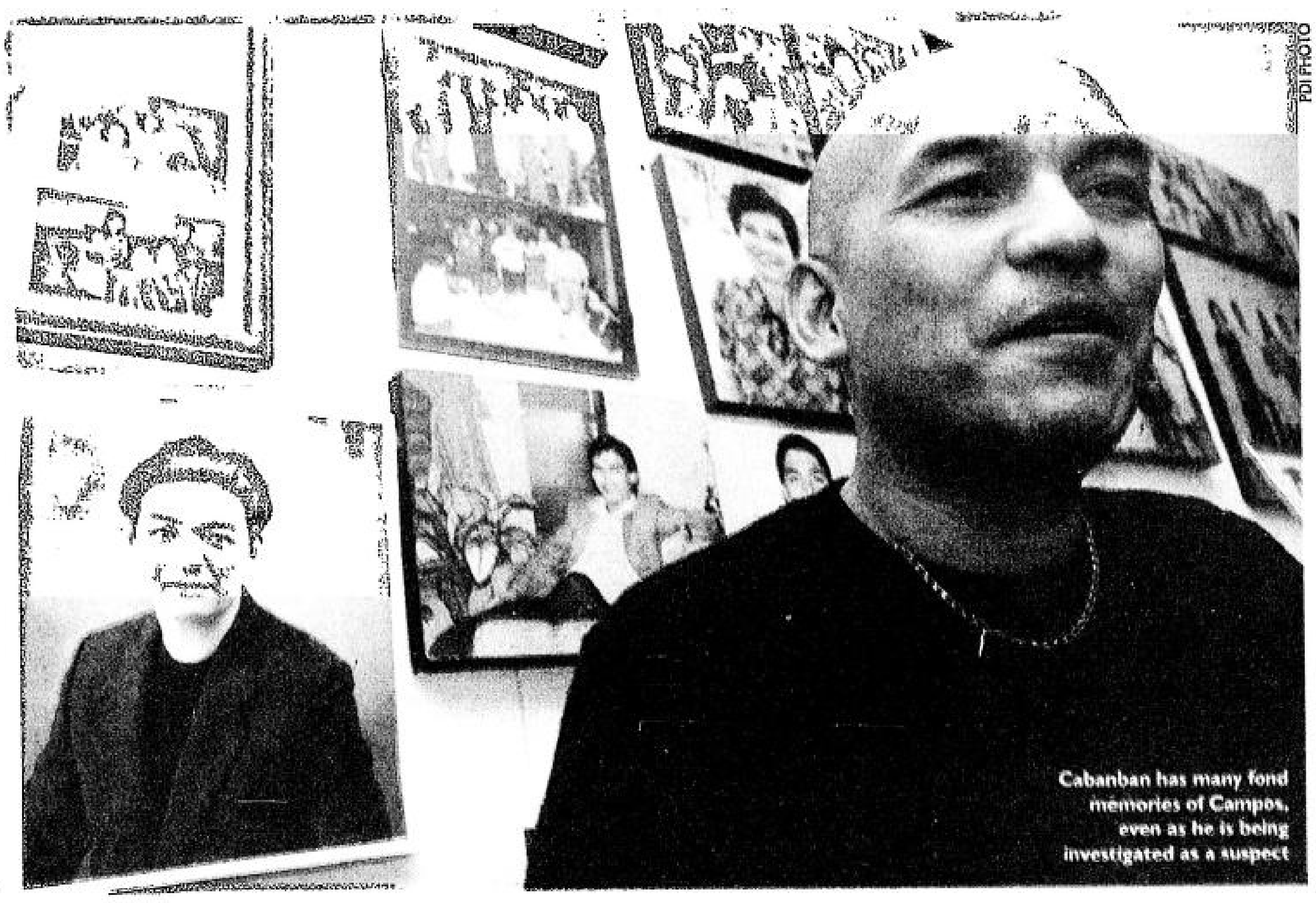
Controversies

By Christian V. Esguerra

Friend or Foe?


PDI PHOTO

Cabanban has many fond memories of Campos, even as he is being investigated as a suspect

MAKE no mistake about him.

Chief Insp. John Campos was no ordinary policeman. He was, for most of his career, a bemedalled officer, a top-notch intelligence man and anti-narcotics spy. His long battle with underground characters earned for him either respect or hatred from various camps. Such dual regard has made it harder to pin down suspects in his fatal ambush in a roadside eatery in Parañaque last December.

Campos was naturally a hero to friends and the kin of crime victims he had helped through the 15 years he was in the service. Admirers remember him as a charming young man from Cebu who dreamt of becoming a policeman. But anti-crime groups had accused him of making money from peddling confiscated drugs.

He could have been both, at one time or another, or so alleged his former lover and fellow narcotics agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong who also confessed, in several interviews, to falling in and out of love with the dashing police officer in varying degrees.

But Ong knew only a part of Campos, only a chapter in his life and not his lifetime. If his close friend Antonio "Choly" Cabanban were to be believed, Ong probably had no idea what her former lover went through after she publicly humiliated him in a series of Senate investigations. After the grueling hearings, Campos came of age, or seemed to, says Cabanban. In their drinking sprees, the boyish spy had bared his soul, from his aspirations to his frustrations, from his childhood dreams to recent problems, he adds.

"You'd automatically like him when you got to meet him in person," says Cabanban, who was eating *lugaw* (rice porridge) with Campos when the latter was shot dead by a still unknown assailant. Cabanban has since transformed from being a key witness to a suspect in the ambush.

In the last few months of his life, murdered policeman John Campos found an unlikely friend in eyewitness-turned-suspect Antonio Cabanban

The two met at an Air Force colonel's wake in November 2001, at a time when the officer was in limbo. Campos was then a wounded cub, having been accused by Ong of peddling recycled drugs and murdering suspected Chinese drug lords.

Cabanban was then, and remains, very much a party animal, a fixture of the hottest nightspots in Metro Manila. His circle of friends include showbiz personalities Carmi Martin, Maria Isabel Lopez, Pinky de Leon, and Daisy Reyes. Cabanban himself used to be in show business as Pocholo Avila, a budding actor alongside the late Alfie Anido and Joel Alano in the early 1980s.

The contrast between the two goes deeper: Cabanban is gay and was a drug addict for 15 years. Campos, the seasoned anti-narcotics agent, was a girl magnet. Where Cabanban was flashy and loud, his friend was said to be reticent and unassuming.

Although both came from the Philippine Military Academy, Campos graduated with flying colors in 1987; Cabanban was kicked out years earlier because of drugs.

They came from two entirely different worlds but Cabanban says he and Campos "hit if off right away" over coffee on the night of the Air Force colonel's necrological service. Then came regular shindigs that got the narcotics agent quickly assimilated into Cabanban's circle. While the two became close, Cabanban says Campos would just flash a boyish smile when asked about Ong's allegations about stashing millions in drug money, preferring to drop the topic.

He did elaborate once, and that was to say that Ong was no different from prime Nida Blanca slay suspect Philip Medel, Sen. Ping Lacson accuser Ador Mawanay, and Vizconde massacre star witness Jessica Alfaro who, Cabanban claims, Campos had described as fooling around with the law by making up fantastic, if not outrageous, stories. Alfaro's testimony had led to the conviction of the son of his close

To page 6

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troy & aubrey in the mood

In a fast-paced, demanding world where a myriad of stimuli impose a heavy toll, a survival kit is a must-carry gear. It's your first aid, self-resuscitation apparatus. It must be ready to be commissioned to address the most threatening situations that we face. These situations affect people and are manifested in the form of moods or "roller coaster rides", as others would call them. They are also coined as "emotional gyrations", the "soar and the dive", or the "zig and the zag", or in short, mood swings. They enable us to creatively cope with the stimuli around us. For most people, it is precisely a strong sensitivity to one's surroundings that becomes the catalyst for significant alterations in mood. Being with certain people, in particular settings or engaged in specific behaviors can precipitate emotional fluctuations that appear sharp and abrupt. How these fluctuations are manifested will always vary.

So how do we humans manifest our moods? We laugh, we cry, we crave, we hate, we search, or shop till we drop. There are many ways on how we show our moods. It can be in the way we speak, the way we think, the things we like or dislike, the hairstyle we choose, the places we go to, the companions we seek, and the food we eat. Somehow, it is safe to say that our moods can dictate the way we express ourselves. Best example would be the way we dress ourselves.

We Are What We Wear

Our clothes, shoes and accessories say who we are. They are few of the best modes of self-expression. Sometimes, we even pick a common theme for the whole ensemble we wear in order to project the mood we like to exude. Color would be an example. We mix and match our clothes, our shoes and accessories, hoping to achieve the right ensemble that best complements or fits our mood. Oftentimes, we scour for pieces that are congruent to our mood. And when we do find the right ones , it is somehow gratifying.

So in this modern time and setting, is there really a brand that fits our mood? One company believes so, and it guarantees fashion in its truest and human sense, without leaving its patrons penniless after a purchase. Local company **Mendrez Management Corporation**, one of the country's leading manufacturers and distributors of quality Philippine-made footwear, has tapped on the human side of the market. Its aim? Give us shoes that fit our moods without the usual hassles.

Company president Liza Mendoza-San Diego believes that "finding the perfect pair of shoes for a specific mood doesn't have to be worrisome. It should be fun, fashionable and affordable all at the same time." She declares so as a reaction to the growing demand of the young population that has become overly concerned about the ensemble they wear vis-à-vis their moods. Fashion preference has evolved over the years. Self-expression has become one primary factor in the choice of clothes and shoes. Knowing this, **Mendrez** has addressed this requirement and shifted their gear towards congruency with this specific demand. Thus, the new **Mendrez** campaign: *Mendrez fits your mood*. This one-liner underscores it all - that Mendrez has got the right stuff to fit different moods. But what is the "right stuff"? In the context of footwear, the perfect shoes mean the perfect pair to match the mood. Mood, as we now know, is reflected on the ensemble we wear.

No doubt, **Mendrez** has got the right stuff. However, as it is with any other campaign, one would need the perfect envoy or envoys to promote the campaign. With the so many faces and names in the "potential endorsers' list", who would be perfect for the role? Upon hearing the names Troy Montero and Aubrey Miles, Ms. Mendoza-San Diego didn't think twice about placing these two *Pinoy* hotties on the forefront of the **Mendrez** campaign.

"As soon as their names were brought up, I knew right then and there that they would be the perfect personalities to endorse our products," reveals Ms. Mendoza-San Diego. And so on September of 2002, two of the hottest commodities in the local entertainment scene, Troy Montero and Aubrey Miles, became the official image models for **Mendrez**.

Mendrez Personified

The mere sight of this certified stud makes girls go gaga. His heritage - a fusion of Irish and Filipino bloodlines, has made him one of the most beautiful people this side of the globe. Moreover, his lineage has contributed much to his talents that have made him a hot commodity in the local entertainment scene.

Born Cody Andrew Garabato Miller III in Tacoma, Seattle, Washington, USA on July 30, 1977, Troy Montero (his screen name) never thought that his fate would change the moment he stepped on the land of his mother's roots. Armed with pure talent and good looks, Troy Montero soon found himself winning the hearts of millions of *Pinays*. Now, he has become one of the most sought-after male personalities in the local entertainment industry. These qualities and achievements, among others, are what convinced **Mendrez Management Corporation** to name Troy as its official male celebrity endorser. With Troy winning the throne for Mendrez's male endorser, who would be the best female personality to help bring fashion to different heights. **Mendrez** style? Like Troy, she would have to be an epitome of beauty and talent. One name popped in the creative minds of the people at **Mendrez** - Aubrey Miles.

From beauty pageants, Aubrey Sandel or Aubrey Miles to millions of *Pinoy* audiences, has successfully penetrated the television and silver screen. Hers is the face and figure that created media frenzy which eventually made her a favorite within the realm of Regal Films. Not only that. She has also been walking the catwalk and she's got quite a number of TV commercials to boot. Earning an eight-movie contract under Regal Films for two-and-a-half years, 21-year old Aubrey is sure to make her mark in the local entertainment industry. All these and other factors have helped Aubrey grab the spot as **Mendrez**'s official female celebrity endorser.

Troy Montero and Aubrey Miles - two *Pinoy* gems that are set to take the country by storm as **Mendrez** endorsers. So how does it feel to be chosen by **Mendrez**?

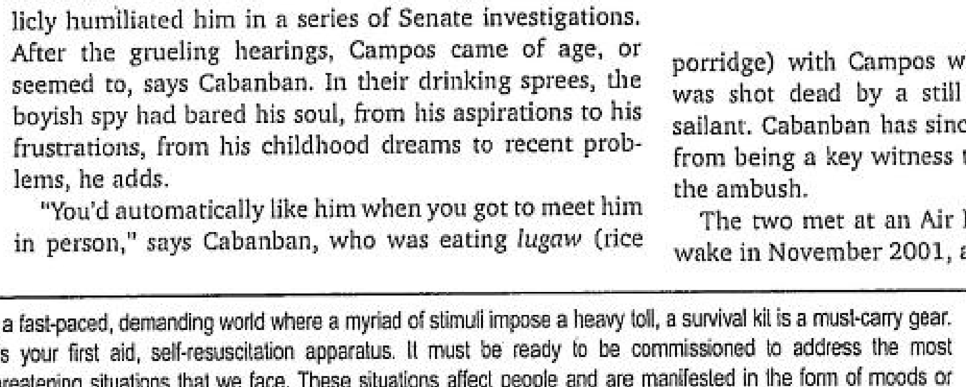
"It feels great to be chosen by **Mendrez**. The company has a very good reputation and the products are indeed of quality and style. Best of all, I get to wear the shoes that fit my mood and personality. So it's great." beams Troy. As we already know, this hunk needs quite a lot pairs given that his job requires him to wear such varieties. But with **Mendrez** around, he won't have to go through all the trouble of finding the right pair. Same goes with Aubrey. This sexy temptress struts her stuff most of the time. She too would need the right pair to wrap her soles that would match her outfit, mood and personality. Having been chosen as the other half of **Mendrez**'s dynamo pair, what does Aubrey have to say about this?

"I'm really glad they chose me. **Mendrez** is known for sleek and stylish shoes. Having been chosen to endorse their products is truly an honor for me," explains Aubrey.

So it's final then. Troy and Aubrey are **Mendrez**'s image models. Their faces are already being seen in many billboards and print ads. But expect to see them not just in photos and stills. For you may find them shopping for the best pair of shoes at any of the 70 **Mendrez** stores nationwide.

So if you happen to bump into Troy or Aubrey in a **Mendrez** store, try not to look so surprised. Why? It's because it's the place where their moods fit…and so will yours.

ADVT



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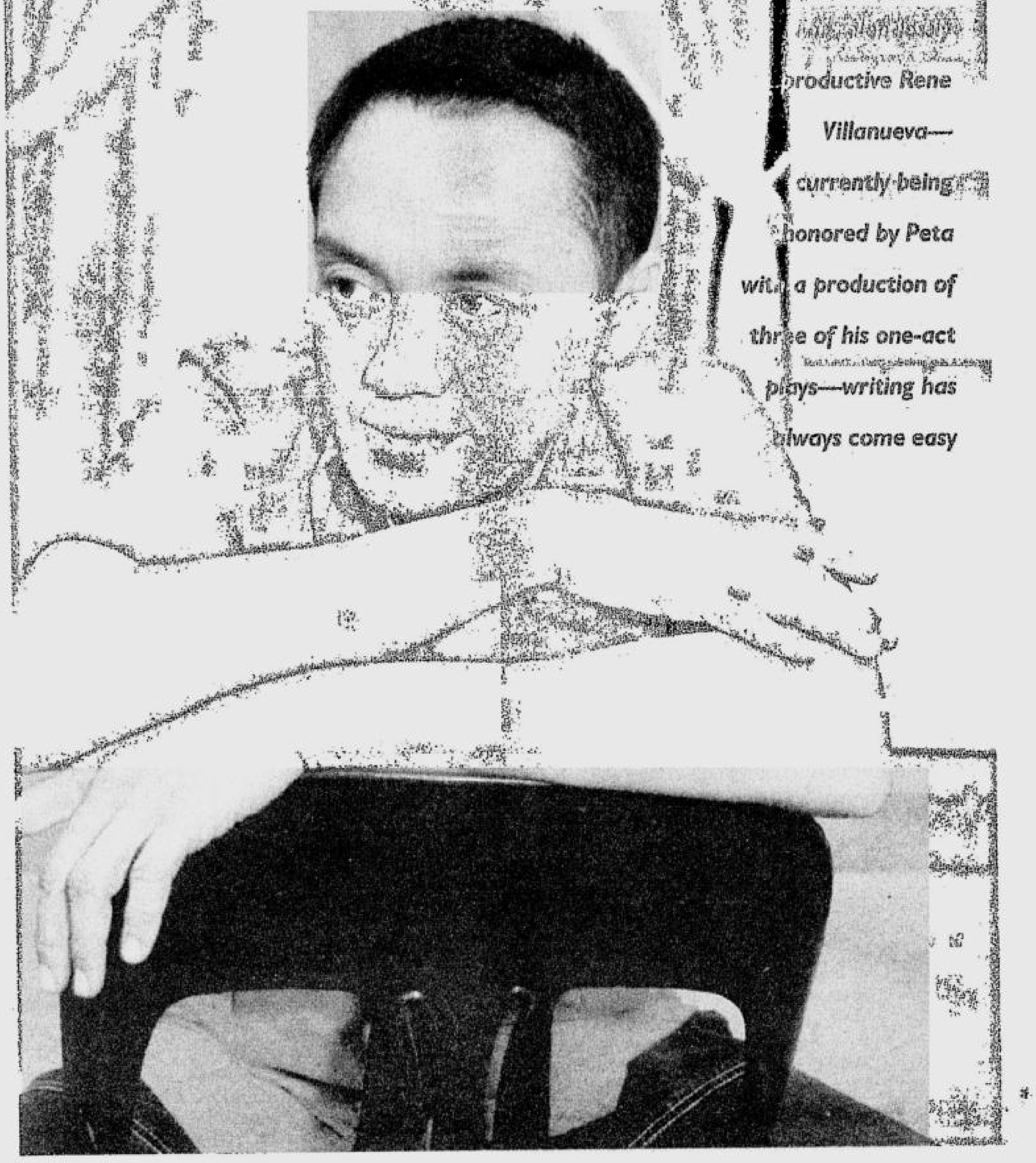
The Writer's Life

By Ruel S. De Vera

The Natural


BETOY JOHNSON

[illegible] productive Rene Villanueva—currently being honored by Peta with a production of three of his one-act plays—writing has always come easy

QUICK, who wrote the lyrics to the "Batibot" theme song, as well as the lines, "*Alin, alin, alin ang naiba?*" And who wrote the Sharon Cuneta as Smokey Mountain mother-bearing tearjerker "*Pasan Ko Ang Daigdig?*" And who holds the record for most number of Palanca Awards?

By now, it would be obvious, if a bit amazing, that the answer to all three of those questions is one person: 48-year-old writing machine Rene O. Villanueva. This seemingly frail, unassuming fellow with the observant eyes may not seem like it on first sight, but he is one of the most successful Filipino writers ever. And to him, it all comes naturally. "My day isn't complete without writing. And it's what comes easiest to me. I'm not good at technical things, I don't even type well and am not proficient at cleaning my own house. But writing? That I can do," he says in flowing Filipino.

In fact, to celebrate his contributions to Philippine theater, the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta), for which Rene served as Resident Writer, is staging "Rene Villanueva: A Trilogy" this month. In the spotlight of Fort Santiago's Rajah Sulayman Theater will be three of Rene's one-act plays.

Born in La Loma, Quezon City in 1954 to a street sweeper father, Francisco, and seamstress mother Vicenta, Villanueva had a colorful childhood, some of which are detailed in his award-winning memoir "Personal." As a child, he was exposed to theater through the town fiesta. "We would always go to see the stage show in La Loma," he recalls. "That was my first exposure to theater." He became an avid radio listener. As early as age 5, he was enchanted by the lure of the silver screen. "I loved the movies. There was a third-run movie theater nearby and I would go by myself as early as age 8 or 9." In his idle time, he devoured *komiks* and Liwayway Magazine.

At the E. Rodriguez, Jr., High School, Rene discovered the writing bug. "I was in the school paper but I wasn't conscious about being a writer yet." A teacher motivated him to try writing so he began writing stories. In college at the Lyceum of the Philippines, he got bamboozled into writing a play in 1975. "I had no experience in drama and we had this school drama fest. Somehow, I wound up with the responsibility of cramming the play in time for the festival." That play, titled "*Lalayo si Emmie,*" was his first, admittedly raw attempt at drama. Later on, he watched the play "*Hanggang Dito Na Lamang at Maraming Salamat*" at Fort Santiago. "I saw Lino Brocka, and I said to myself 'Wow, so this is what good theater is about.'" Then, he wrote his second play, "Sixteen and Three Fourths," with an eye towards improvement. He hasn't stopped writing or improving since.

Since then, Rene has carved a writing career that is both steady and spectacular. He has not only crafted over 50 plays for everyone from Peta to Repertory Philippines. He served as head writer, director and producer of the seminal children's education show "Batibot" from its inception, writing the lyrics to the show's many songs. He was literary editor at the late, lamented Diyaryo Pilipino, and has taught at the University of the Philippines, Trinity College, Centro Escolar, St. Scholastica's and the Ateneo. He has even written 12 screenplays, including the aforementioned *"Pasan Ko Ang Daigdig"* and the prize-winning *"Gabi Na, Kumander."* A major proponent of writing for children, Rene has won prizes for his children's books. By the way, he launched eight—eight!— books last December for Lampara Books.

In the meantime, Rene also found time to join contests, winning everything from the Catholic Mass Media Award to the Gawad CCP, and was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1989. And then there is the aforementioned Palanca record: a whopping total haul of 29 wins in one-act play, story for children and teleplay with 12 first prizes. Whew. And that's just the short, extremely edited version of his portfolio, the complete version of which seems longer than a zarzuela.

Being someone who has written virtually anything there is to write, Rene is best known for his plays. But then he explains it's all part of the same process: "As long as you can construct it through words, I'll do it. It's like cooking. As long as you know the basic steps, you can cook virtually anything, be it *guisado* or *nilaga*. I have the capacity to construct worlds through words, so whatever kind it is, I can do it. But of course you have a specialty as a cook. Mine happens to be plays." So Rene whips up mind-blowing plays from the ingredients available to him.

What then is the secret to his versatility, productivity and longevity as a writer? "I really enjoy myself. I don't expect anything from writing, not even profit. It's the writing itself that gives me enjoyment, not trying to write well. So when I write, I don't think about writing well, I just enjoy it."

Looking back, Rene believes that the many writers who befriended and taught him helped shape his writing life, everyone from Bienvenido Lumbera to the late Doreen Fernandez. Rene particularly mentions learning a lot from poet Virgilio Almario.

Rene is enjoying this Peta Villanueva-fest "I'm very happy about it, particularly because I'm a member of Peta's Writers' Bloc." Yet he also wishes that more people would support new plays by local playwrights. "When I look around it looks like people have grown tired of helping Filipino playwrights or producing original plays. If they do produce something, it's lip service in the form of translations. That's sad. People complain that there are no plays, but there are. Truth is, they are just lazy or just plain refuse to be hospitable to Filipino playwrights. Every year, so many people enter the Palanca's drama categories. If there would just be more effort, more original plays could be staged. Time and effort need to be invested in the younger playwrights."

Recently, the writing machine has been a bit worse for wear. His diabetes, diagnosed some seven years ago, now gives him fits. "I get tired really easily and I get leg cramps all the time," he groans. "And it has really affected my eyesight." He finds it difficult struggling with the disease as the medicine is expensive and the required lifestyle shift has been very hard. But he remains committed to his daily writing ritual and, amid the preparations for the Peta plays, feels enervated. "I really thought I would feel tired, but these days, I actually feel better."

Mortality doesn't scare him even if his illness has forced him to lie low a few times. Two years ago, he almost got his face torn off when the Batibot van was carnapped—with him in it. He does think about his hold on life, but puts a different spin on it. "I think that this might be my last year, or that this might be my last production. I'm always conscious of that. Everything I do now has to be good, because it might be my last work. So I've been taking as much work as I can. And it feels good because people are actually giving me more work."

And he's still amazed at the small discoveries he makes everyday. As Rene recalls, while working on a term paper toward his Master's at UP, "I found out I had to use footnotes. I panicked and worried for two days. I couldn't imagine how to lift the number to turn it into a footnote. So I had to ask help from a sibling. *Diyos ko.* It's just a matter of pressing one button on the computer!"

Despite the dusk of disease and the onset of the years, Rene's work ethic still burns bright—indefinitely, it seems. With absolutely no regrets and no clear end in sight, Rene Villanueva writes on.

"Rene Villanueva: A Trilogy" *goes on stage at the Rajah Sulayman Theater, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila on February 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 at 7 p.m.*

End Page

By John L. Silva

An Urban Heroine

If these agitators thought they could menace Regina Paterno, they were terribly wrong

MRS. PATERNO PAKIALAMERA!
PS-5
JOHN SILVA

The angry crowd at Arroceros Park

We must honor a woman today. Her name is Regina Paterno. Last Tuesday, February 4, she braved a crowd of several hundred angry teachers and mothers who opposed her Winner Foundation's effort to finish the reforestation of Arroceros Park in Manila.

That day, Regina was to announce that the park would be open to the public. The Winner Foundation signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in 1993 with the City of Manila for it to develop and maintain the area as a forest park as envisioned by then First Lady, Mrs. Amelita Ramos. The foundation set out to clear the park, which had become a dump, planted 3,500 saplings and renewed the life of over 150 old trees, some of them more than a hundred years old. The MOA had given the foundation jurisdiction over the park for 15 years or until 2008, after which the City of Manila would maintain the premises as a park.

But Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has other plans. In 2001, he announced that he would build a teacher's building, arguing that present facilities for teachers had become very cramped. Winner Foundation members, its ally, the Heritage Conservation Society and numerous other environment organizations pointed out that an adjoining city property was empty and would make a good site for a teacher's building. Also available is another nearby and desolate space, what used to be the Jai Alai Building, which the Mayor had demolished despite repeated protests. With his mentor, President Joseph Estrada gone, the money to build a justice building on the site is gone, as well.

Now the Mayor wants Arroceros Park as the site for a teacher's building, a plan that threatens the nine-year rehabilitation effort by the Foundation.

The opening of the park last Tuesday began with a peaceful meeting between Isabelo Magbitang, president of the Manila city schools supvervisors' association and the foundation officials. Soon after, a crowd bearing placards appeared and the ruckus started. Screened by half a dozen policemen, several dozen members of the foundation and other environment NGOs faced the crowd of placard-carrying women, whose messages bore identical handwriting. The placards described Paterno as just another socialite and meddler, and said that the foundation members, presumably all from Forbes Park, should stay there and yield this park to the teachers. The rich, according to the placards,

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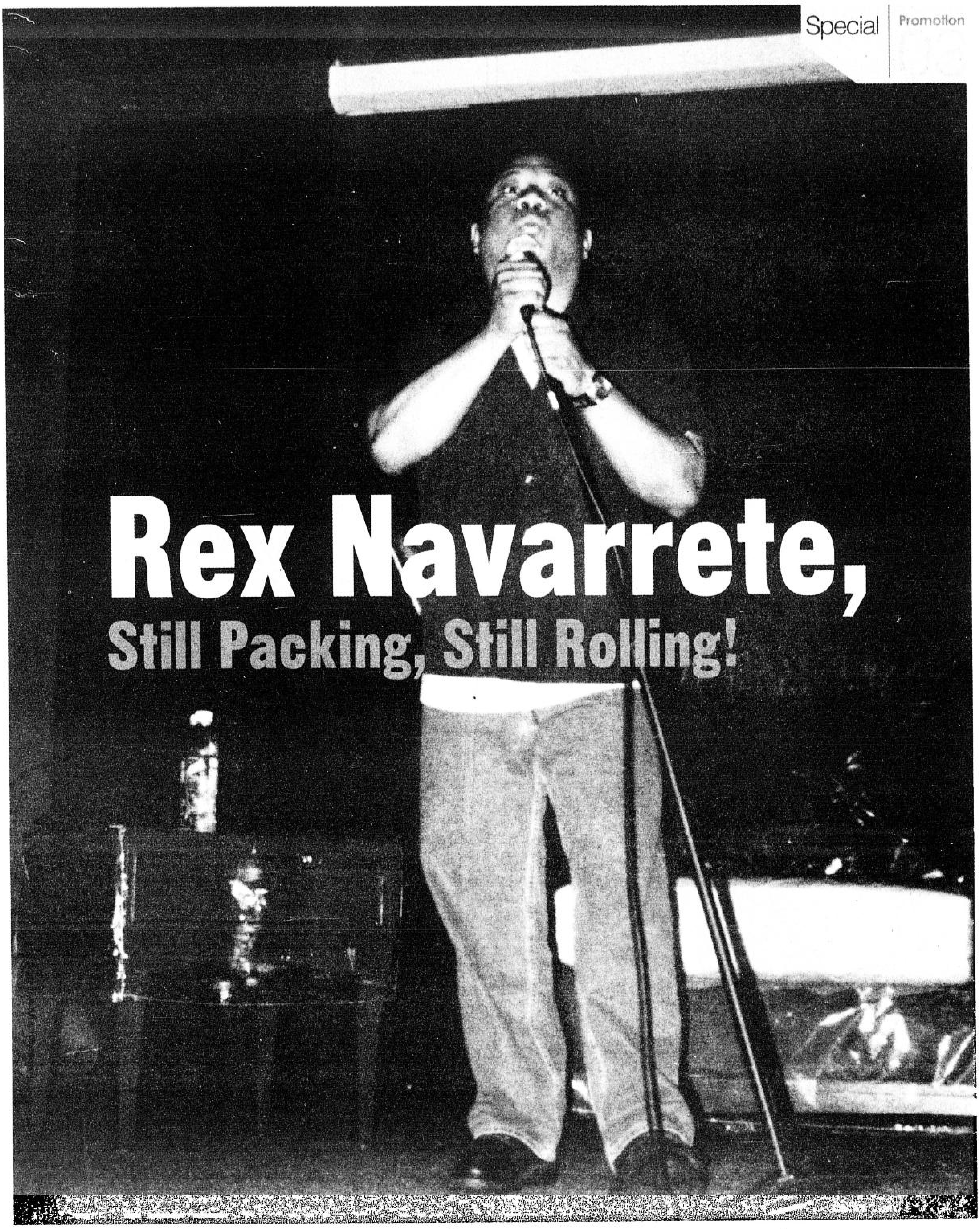
Rex Navarrete,

Still Packing, Still Rolling!



The packing never stops. Yup, Rex Navarrete, the now-famous Fil-American stand-up comic from California came back to DISH Restaurant at the Power Plant Mall for another round of his trademark raunchy humor. Sponsored by mobile communications leader SMART, Rex regaled the packed house with his observations on Filipino life both here, and in the U.S.A.

Born in the Philippines and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Rex's underground humor slowly crept it's way around the Fil-Am community, eventually reaching our own shores as well. With the magic of the Internet, Navarrete routines like "SBC Packers" and "Tito Boy" became legendary among Filipinos on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. Then came Maritess.

Thanks to his collaboration with web designer Dino Ignacio, Rex's popular skit on a Filipina domestic helper working for Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, etc. "Maritess vs. the Superfriends" became an online phenomenon for Pinoys everywhere, and Rex Navarrete? He had become a star.

As Rex made his way to DISH this past February 1 and 2, 2003, Manila's elite jumped at the chance to catch his raucous comic act once more. Thanks to the efforts of SMART Communications, Rex Navarrete came home to another appreciative crowd. SMART gave away the MMS-capable Nokia 6100, 6610 and 7210 FREE for subscribers who signed up for their Plan 1995.

Never one to be shy, Rex was at his audacious best, poking fun at everything he sees around him. From Pinoy fastfood greetings, to table manners, to politicians evading direct answers, the crowd at DISH were rolling in the aisles with laughter courtesy of that unique Navarrete humor. SMART continues its commitment to bring world-class entertainment to the Philippines. Whether it's rock band Stephen Speaks, R&B superstars Boyz II Men, or the Fil-Am comic genius that is Rex Navarrete, only SMART can bring these entertainers straight to you!

> **"Rex was at his audacious best"**

ADVT

Artwatch

By Alya B. Honasan

The Artist as Globetrotter

Artist Joe Datuin must spend as much time traveling as he does painting, but he's dead-set on his mission of bringing contemporary Philippine art to the global scene

SOME artists are meant to take on critics, others to live the stereotype of the temperamental bohemian to the hilt. Not Joe Datuin. If there's anything the 30-year art veteran and erstwhile advertising art director and art teacher has taken to heart, it's his role as a globetrotting ambassador of Philippine art.

The bug must have bitten the University of Santo Tomas Fine Arts graduate as early as 1979, when the amiable Datuin went to India on a Colombo Plan Scholarship while still working as an Industry Development Analyst at Design Center Philippines. "At the Design Center, I had the opportunity to work under two National Artists, Arturo Luz and J. Elizalde Navarro, so you can imagine the experience," he says. Interestingly enough, Datuin went to study packaging technology, and worked actively in broadcast media and advertising before he became a full-time fine artist in 1992. The artist also takes pride in having his very own Olympic gold medal—a legitimate prize for winning the 1980 Moscow Olympics Poster Design Competition, besting an international field of some 6,000 entries. Then again, how many living Pinoy artists can claim to be in the collections of eight Philippine embassies abroad? How's that for globalization?

The serious jet-setting began in 2000, when Datuin and fellow artists Eghai Roxas, .Nemiranda and Pancho Piano formed the group Art Phililippines, with the specific motto of producing "Philippine art for global recognition." "It's presenting Philippine art to foreign audiences," Datuin says, "to show them that we are producing good art, and to contribute to the search for a national visual identity among Filipinos abroad." The group debuted with a participation in the Vienna Cultural Exhibition that year, and returned for a second engagement the following year.

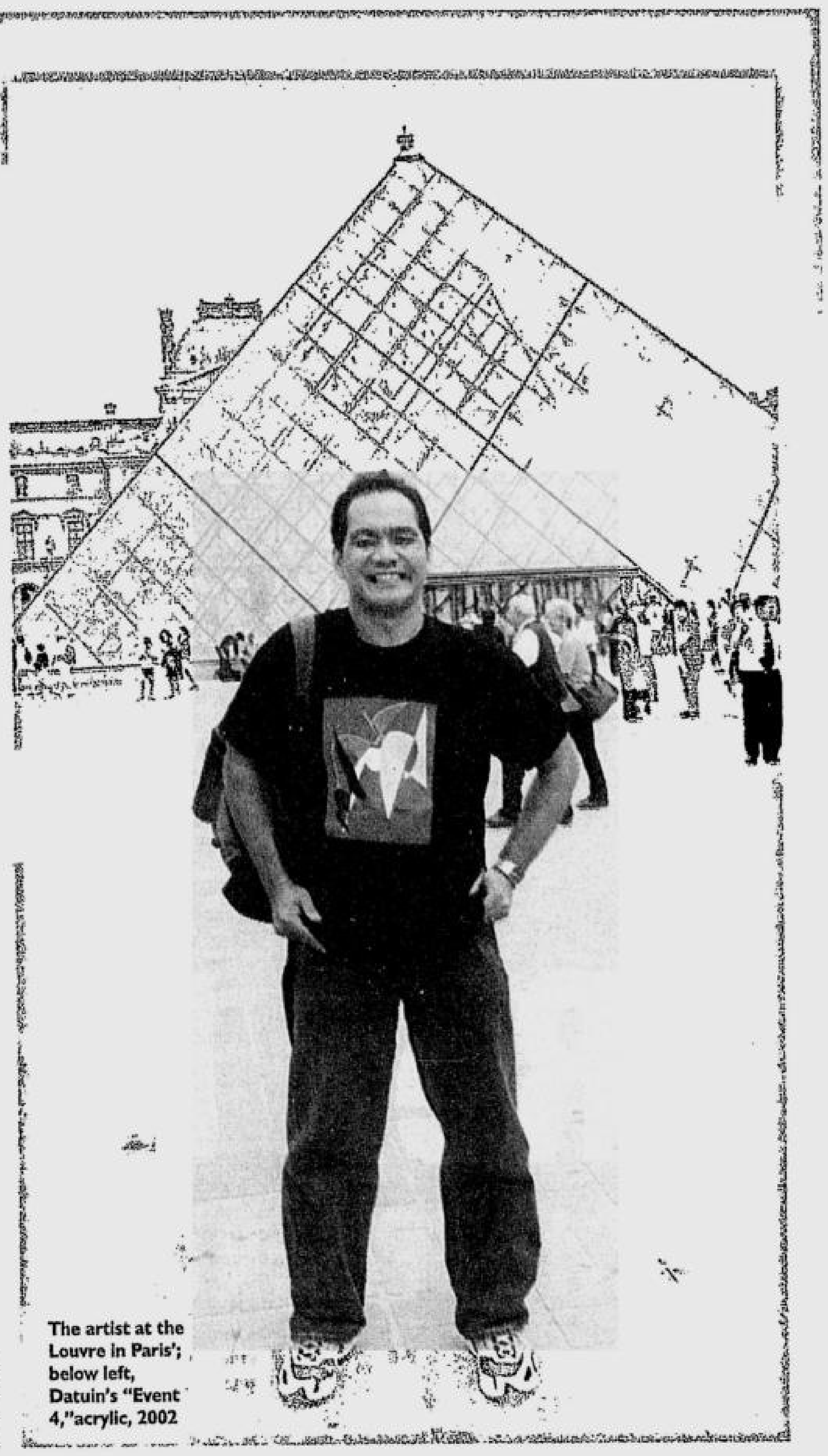
Last year, Datuin and Art Philippines had its broadest exposure to date with the America-Europa Art Exposition 2002 that took the four artists on an almost four-month swing through New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago in the United States, and through Vienna, Brussels, Berlin and Rome in Europe.

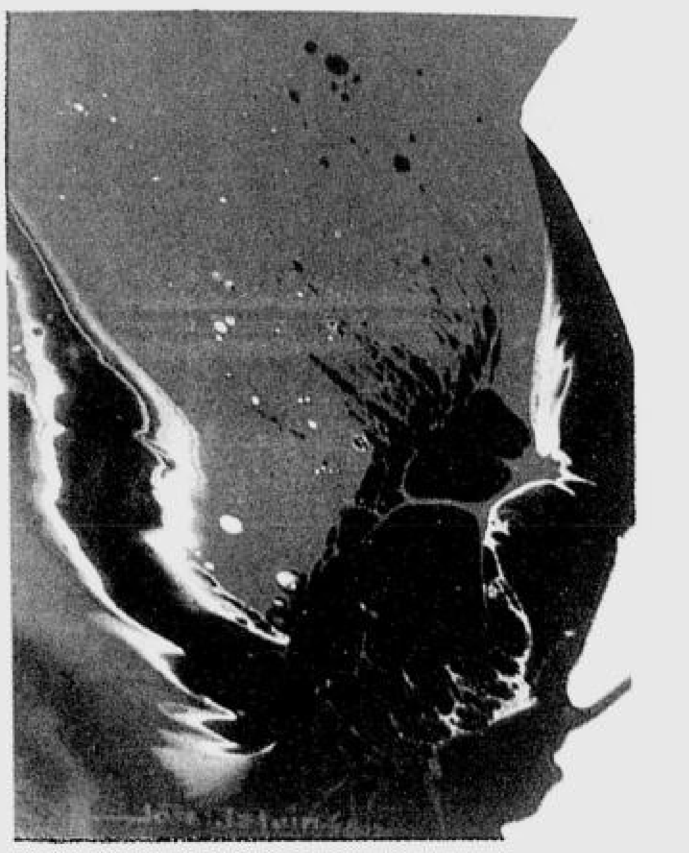
The best part of such artistic forays, Datuin feels, is meeting up with *kababayans* in every corner of the globe. "*Sabik sila sa Pinoy*" (They're eager to see other Pinoys), Datuin says of the communities that often turn up to see their shows. Foreign affairs and tourism officials were all-out in supporting the exhibits. In fact, the art group was able to conduct informal consultations with US-based artists for the design of a proposed Philippine landmark, sponsored by the NCCA, and set to rise in Montalban, Rizal.

Datuin's own art is a combination of his many influences, not the least of them graphic design. Thus, the spare abstract style in sculpture as well as canvases that makes use of primary colors in his favorite medium, acrylic. "It's practical because it dries faster and you can play around more. You can't achieve the same sharp edges with oil or watercolor." He has gone through several phases, painting horses and the all-too-popular folk scenes, and his diplomacy extends to his attitude towards his viewers. "That's why my works sometimes have very generalized titles, like 'Naturescape,' he says. "If different people see different things, okay *lang.*"

Datuin is earnest about his mission, reinforced during an artist's residency at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont last year. During the contemporary art workshops, Datuin recalls the "fruitful interaction" with artists from more developed countries. "They couldn't believe Pinoy artists were exposed to the same things, and that we knew all about installation art and other trends."

Already Datuin is planning his next trip, armed with works that may not rock the art world, but still manage to bring a bit of Philippine color—and a great deal of national pride—to overseas *kababayans* who need them the most.





The artist at the Louvre in Paris'; below left, Datuin's "Event 4,"acrylic, 2002

Friend

...from page 3

friend Pinky de Leon, Cabanban adds.

Most of the time, however, Campos would just hang loose with his newfound friends. "He felt at home with us. He didn't have to be conscious of his stature." In their regular gimmicks, Cabanban's group found out that the police officer loved dancing. He was, in fact, a "damn good" ballroom dancer. Though seemingly overweight with a swelling waistline, Campos could easily sway his hips for a salsa, slide forward for a tango, or step backward for a cha-cha.

"He usually said that he polished his dancing because of Rosebud," Cabanban recalls. "Rosebud, he said, was a queen of ballroom dancing."

With his boyish looks and mean dancing repertoire, it was no surprise that Campos easily became an attraction in bars and discos, says his friend. "Girls would giggle whenever they saw him," says Cabanban. "They would invite him for pictures or ask him to join them in their table. One time, a woman even bit his butt out of fondness."

Before Campos let his hair down with his newfound friends, his movements were cautious and calculated, says his PMA colleague. He used to bring along male friends, including an Indonesian, whenever he partied with Cabanban's group. They got the impression that his companions were bodyguards and they found this somehow discomfiting, Cabanban says. It turned out that some of the men were actually students being sent to school by the police officer, he adds.

To Campos' critics, this generosity should prove Ong's charges that the narcotics agent had indeed beefed up his coffers by selling illegal drugs during his watch, but Cabanban and his friends chose to look at the positive side. They never bothered to ask where the money was coming from. In fact, says the former showbiz player, the group noticed that Campos seemed perpetually cash-strapped, probably because he was spending for his scholars. When it was time to pay the bills at the bar, the supposed-to-be-wealthy officer would sometimes ask him in a whisper to pick up the tab. "He died with a Timex watch and only P500 in his wallet," says Cabanban.

That claim might convince anyone but Ong. In a recent interview, she says Campos' two-story townhouse unit in Better Living, Parañaque was a testament to his lavish lifestyle. His room, she says, looked more like a high-end mall where signature items like Bally, Ferragamo, Polo, and Lacoste were on display.

From a party companion, Campos soon became part of his family, says Cabanban. Campos would visit Cabanban's house in Moonwalk, Parañaque, at least thrice a week for a sumptuous meal of his favorite fried chicken, a round of mahjong with the old-timers, or to simply bum around. Even Campos' siblings from Cebu stayed there whenever they visited Manila, he adds.

The boyish officer was practically at the beck and call of Cabanban's mother and aunts whenever they needed someone at the mahjong table. He got along with them despite the generation gap of at least 40 years. He would even deliberately bungle his pieces to spice up the game, says Cabanban. His mother agrees. "He was very down-to-earth. We really miss him. He's like a son to me," she says, clutching a framed picture of Campos.

At the time of his murder, the narcotics agent was conducting lectures at the Philippine National Police Academy in Cavite and had just completed a comptrollership course, according to Cabanban. Offers and opportunities outside of the police force were many. Campos was contemplating on teaching in the US or accepting a lucrative offer to handle the security of San Miguel Corporation. But he was not in a rush, says Cabanban. He was patiently waiting for the right time to clear his name and probably revive his disrupted career.

In the meantime, he adds, Campos simply wanted to have a real good time, relive his youth and catch up with the things he had missed. He was so engrossed with his new friends and his new life that he hardly bothered about his security. "They need me more alive than dead," he would confidently tell his friends. Whoever Campos was referring to, Cabanban says he didn't know.

That curious confidence probably explains why Campos proved to be an easy target—with his back to the street—on the morning of Dec. 5. A bonnet-wearing man, backed by at least four others in a car, walked up from behind and shot him from across the street. Campos was only 36.

PDI PHOTO

Many questions remain long after Campos' death

End Page

...from page 4

don't look kindly on teachers who, the messages added, are behind Atienza. Other signs played on former Education Secretary Roco's name, calling the group crazy: "Roco, Roco-Roco Ka." Roco had been a sympathetic speaker at a Winner Foundation gathering at the Park a week before.

In the throng stood the unperturbed Regina, patiently explaining her side even when her voice was often drowned out by the agitators who harped on her not being a Manila resident. Soon enough, the name calling verged on the absurd.

A few of Paterno's colleagues regretfully fanned the flames. When a masked Atienza look-alike came bounding towards Paterno, a supporter told him to "get out," followed with a couple of invectives. Her dismissive tone sounded straight out of Mckinley Road and that didn't sit well with the crowd. There were also a few who could only express their sentiments in rudimentary Tagalog, exacerbating the communication problem even further.

To its credit, the crowd was disciplined during the first few hours. Whenever a few agitators would shout incendiary anti-rich remarks, the crowd would motion for them to shut up. When we started talking one-on-one with each concerned mother or teacher, it was actually fruitful. There was a meeting of minds, or, in the midst of nervous laughter, an acknowledgment of differences. But away from the agitators, there was respect.

When a Winner supporter brought up the matter about how forests in cities can clean the air and allow children to breath, there was no debate. Everyone agreed as well about sparing the trees, with those who wanted the building vowing to build around them.

It was during these bonding sessions that I noticed several women speaking into Motorola walkie-talkies, describing the situation. To whom, it was hard to tell. Minutes later, the agitators with their banners started yelling louder, screaming EDSA 3 and for the Winner Foundation to get out of the park. Whoever was on the other side of the walkie-talkie didn't like a meeting of minds and renewed, instead, hate and demagoguery.

Realizing there were higher forces cynically manipulating people and throwing wedges between those of goodwill, I left the mob and walked the park. It was enchanting to see cathedral-high trees, branches arching and shading the clean pathway. At intervals were little signs describing each tree or sayings about their importance to the earth. I thought about how the country has less than 15 percent of forest reserves left, no thanks to the loggers who brazenly denuded the country and became filthy rich; no thanks to city governments who think concrete jungles rather than greenery. In Baguio, they even have cement pine trees for street décor.

As I walked back, there were people wandering the park without their placards. We were all face up, marveling at the canopy of green that sheltered us. We were all smiles and I overheard one say to another, "What was all that protesting about?" We were in an oasis and we were in peaceful bliss.

I went back to the crowd and could see Regina prodding people to walk through the park. Their park. Many wanted to do it but the agitators held sway. It was lunchtime and Regina, in non-violent fashion, offered her food to an agitator. He declined saying he wasn't used to the food of the rich. It turned out to be just pili nuts.

Ordinary folk facing placards writ with personal insults, taunts, and class baiting would have run away or lost their cool. Regina did neither. She was even-tempered throughout, explaining the Memorandum of Agreement and pointing to the other venues for construction. It was soon evident to the throng that she was speaking with honesty and conviction. Many would have agreed with her, but the few agitators who badgered her had to earn their keep.

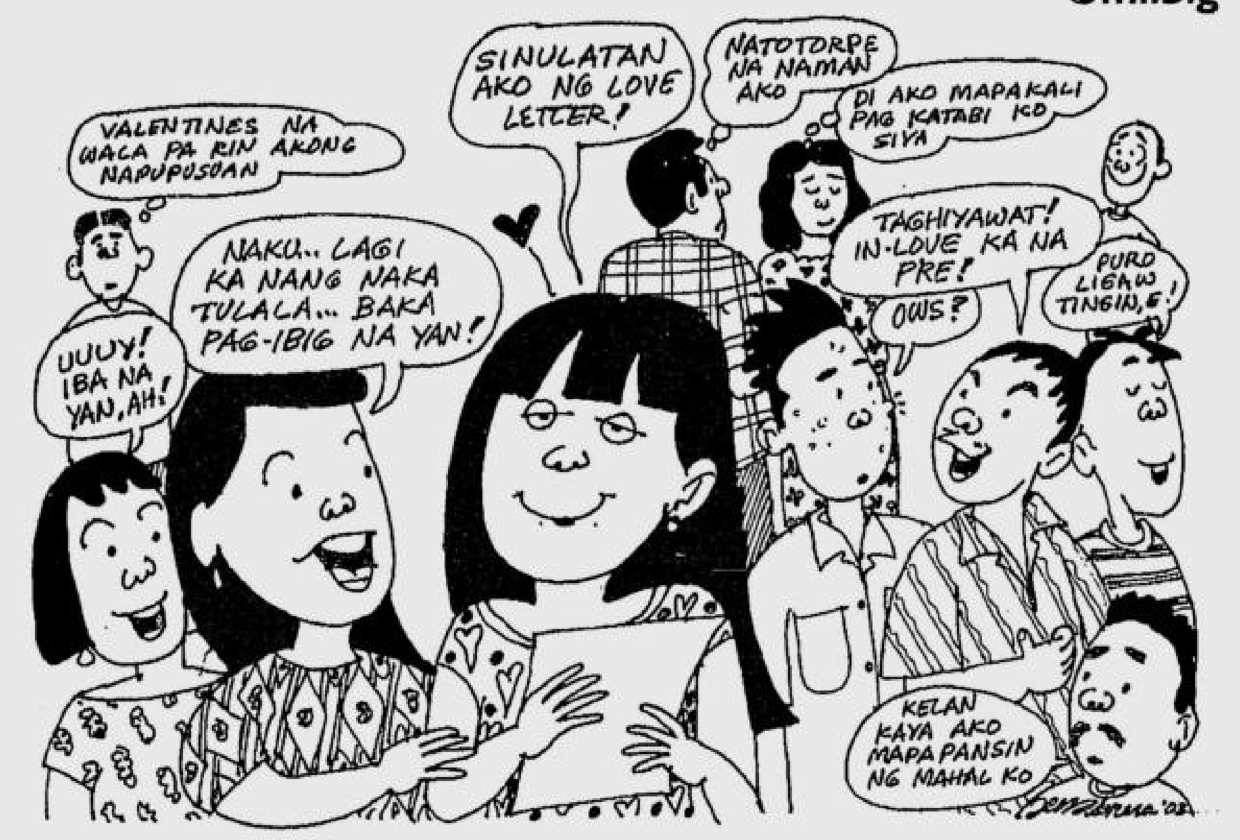
Towards the end of the day, there were less female teachers and aggrieved mothers in the crowd and more menacing-looking men who wouldn't pass either as teachers or aggrieved fathers. Regina was warned that the scene was turning ugly and was advised to leave. But she and her supporters stood their ground till the official closing time for the park when the group finally left. The agitators, in a juvenile fit, padlocked the park gates, as if to prove, once and for all that in Manila, there is no rule of law.

If these agitators, whom many in the crowd believed were sent by City Hall, thought they could menace Regina and her supporters, they were terribly wrong. Their bully tactics backfired and only made Regina a heroine and an underdog. Despite the crude attempts to intimidate, it was made clear to many that day that a park, with its sheltering sky and fresh air, was important for all, rich and poor alike. But mostly for the poor children of Manila who have fewer and fewer green places to play in.

Pinoy Nga

By Jess Abrera

Umiibig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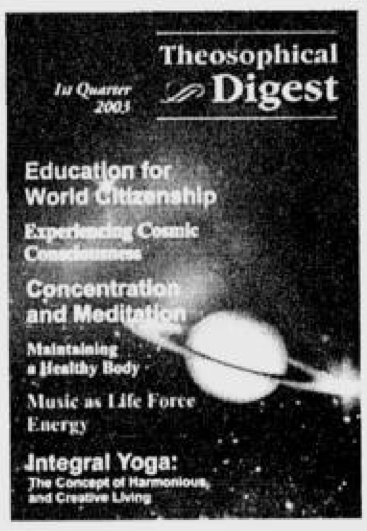
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51	97,040	194,080	291,120	388,160	485,200	582,240	679,280	776,320	873,360	970,400
52	91,840	183,680	275,520	367,360	459,200	551,040	642,880	734,720	826,560	918,400
53	86,640	173,280	259,920	346,560	433,200	519,840	606,480	693,120	779,760	866,400
54	82,000	164,000	246,000	328,000	410,000	492,000	574,000	656,000	738,000	820,000
55	77,360	154,720	232,080	309,440	386,800	464,160	541,520	618,880	696,240	773,600
56	P73,240	P146,480	P219,720	P292,960	P366,200	P439,440	P512,680	P585,920	P659,160	P732,400
57	69,120	138,240	207,360	276,480	345,600	414,720	483,840	552,960	622,080	691,200
58	65,000	130,000	195,000	260,000	325,000	390,000	455,000	520,000	585,000	650,000
59	61,400	122,800	184,200	245,600	307,000	368,400	429,800	491,200	552,600	614,000
60	57,800	115,600	173,400	231,200	289,000	346,800	404,600	462,400	520,200	578,000
61	P54,600	P109,200	P163,800	P218,400	P273,000	P327,600	P382,200	P436,800	P491,400	P546,000
62	51,400	102,800	154,200	205,600	257,000	308,400	359,800	411,200	462,600	514,000
63	48,200	96,400	144,600	192,800	241,000	289,200	337,400	385,600	433,800	482,000
64	45,400	90,800	136,200	181,600	227,000	272,400	317,800	363,200	408,600	454,000
65	42,600	85,200	127,800	170,400	213,000	255,600	298,200	340,800	383,400	426,000
66	P40,120	P80,240	P120,360	P160,480	P200,600	P240,720	P280,840	P320,960	P361,080	P401,200
67	37,620	75,240	112,860	150,480	188,100	225,720	263,340	300,960	338,580	376,200
68	35,120	70,240	105,360	140,480	175,600	210,720	245,840	280,960	316,080	351,200
69	32,620	65,240	97,860	130,480	163,100	195,720	228,340	260,960	293,580	326,200
70	30,120	60,240	90,360	120,480	150,600	180,720	210,840	240,960	271,080	301,200
71	P27,720	P55,440	P83,160	P110,880	P138,600	P166,320	P194,040	P221,760	P249,480	P277,200
72	25,460	50,920	76,380	101,840	127,300	152,760	178,220	203,680	229,140	254,600
73	23,200	46,400	69,600	92,800	116,000	139,200	162,400	185,600	208,800	232,000
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AVAILABLE AT BETTER CAMERA SHOPS AND DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE

THE CANON EOS 300V AF SLR CAMERA: It's all about speed!

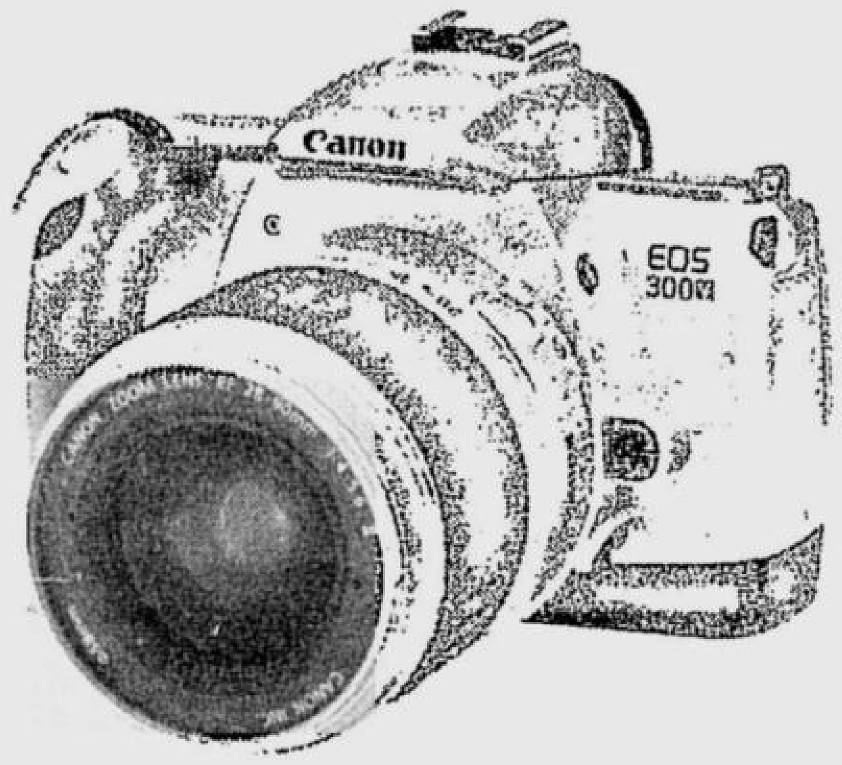
Canon Camera, through its exclusive Philippine distributor Super East Asia Enterprises, Inc.(SEAEI) lets photographers discover a new world of possibilities as it introduces the newest and the most stylish of its SLR Cameras, the EOS 300V.

While the camera looks just a smaller and a more compact version of the EOS 300 SLR, its high-end features are more advanced and sophisticated. Consider it belonging to the same affordable price category as EOS 300 but with features you can only find in higher-price models. Its 29.9 x 30mm LCD display alone is 3 times larger than that of the EOS 300. The LCD, complemented by a backlight, is thus easy-to-read even in total darkness. Think: the LCD of your cellphone.

The features of the camera were unveiled fully during the Canon Magnificent 8's (M8) recent visit in Cebu City. The M8 is composed of the some of the country's top photographers with specialties covering a wide range of photographic expertise. Four of its members, Vic Sison, George Tapan, Boldy Tapales, and Sonny Yabao got to experience the possibilities of the EOS 300V in capturing the scenic landscapes, picturesque wonders, and beautiful people of the celebrated Queen City of the South.

The EOS 300V is a new generation SLR camera equipped with the fastest Auto Focus (AF) in its class. It is recognized as the world's no.1 in AF speed, performance, and width area. "What I like about the EOS 300V is its really fast focusing speed!" declared Sison, an exponent of 'paintography' (paintography is a technique in painting actual photographs of which Sison is an staunch advocate).

"I can even take a picture of a rock thrown against the wind. The focus is fast yet the accuracy of exposure does not suffer." The EOS 300V focuses quickly even with off-centered subjects. Thanks to the user-selectable 7 auto focusing points that crisscrosses the photographer's vision inside the viewfinder. Moreover, it is equipped with a detection orientation sensor which assists the same focusing points in emphasizing the highlights of a photo taken in either landscape or portrait orientation.



The EOS 300V SLR camera bears a completely new styling body for improved operation ease. It features bold, unconventional, and dramatic departure from the usual EOS camera styles. Its original camera shape, compact body, and excellent holding comfort set the trend for a new user-friendly SLR.

For a professional travel photographer like Tapan and a documentary photographer like Tapales, EOS 300V is definitely an ideal companion, as it is lightweight and compact. "It's also perfect for documentary, "says Tapales, "it makes me appear less conspicuous." And yet its two-tone, low contrast, metallic color scheme gives this stylish camera a truly professional look.

And for photographers who find themselves holding a camera on one hand and camera accessories or other things on the other, the EOS 300V makes sure that no picture-perfect opportunities pass by without these moments being captured. Its new shape grip, flash-off mode, and the placing of the command dial on the right side, make it ideal for one-hand operation.

As an added bonus from Canon, the EOS 300V comes cheaper relative to most SLR cameras in market today. Award winning TV commercial director and cinematographer Tapales sums it up in saying that "Compared to most professional SLR, the EOS 300 is definitely cheaper. The metallic lens mount can be used for other models from the Canon EF Series." Thus, when buying the EOS 300V SLR camera, one need not buy new set of Canon lenses, for the old ones can still be used.

The EOS 300V also features a -2.5dpt to +0.5dpt dioptric adjustment. It has a 35-zone, AF point-linked, and evaluative metering. It comes with a wide choice of accessories and different sets of lenses.

THE CANON EOS 66

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Canon EOS 66 gives a whole
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THE CANON MAGNIFICENT 8

Magnificent. A word that embodies a sense of being awesome. Someone or something, which is so wonderful it changes the things in us, perhaps even the world around us.

The Magnificent 8 is a group of well-known Filipino professional photographers who uses Canon cameras as medium for their art. They are passionate artists who transform plain two-dimensional photographs into a world we all dream to bask into; where all senses are so deeply nourishing and exuding with life and the like. These professional photographers take us into the great hike of diversity. They aren't called magnificent for nothing.

John Ching, the photographer and businessman who is severely patient. He waits until he takes that swift moment when humanity is at its tide. Reminding us that humanity is precious and is worth the wait.

Rina Falcis. A woman whose photographs speak volumes of a woman's heart on issues she can no longer be quiet about. She loves to experiment and is currently playing with luminous body paints under blacklights.

He is said to be calculating. A perfectionist. Cold, it may seem, but this passionate advertising photographer, Francis Rivera, is one of the best we have in this country. Precision mixed with passion makes up a brew one can only call magnificent.

"Paintography" is usually associated with Vic Sison, whose passion for painting merges with his love for photography. His brushstrokes on his photographs add depth and dimension to an already inspiring picture. Award-winner director and cinematographer Boldy Tapales has been named one of CCP's Artists of Photography. He seems to rediscover a new meaning in life with each discovery on what is truly meaningful and beautiful in a picture.

THE CANON M8. (Clockwise from left) *Ibarra Deri, Sonny Yabao, George Tapan, Francis Rivera. Vic Sison, Rina Falcis, Boldy Tapales, and John Ching.*

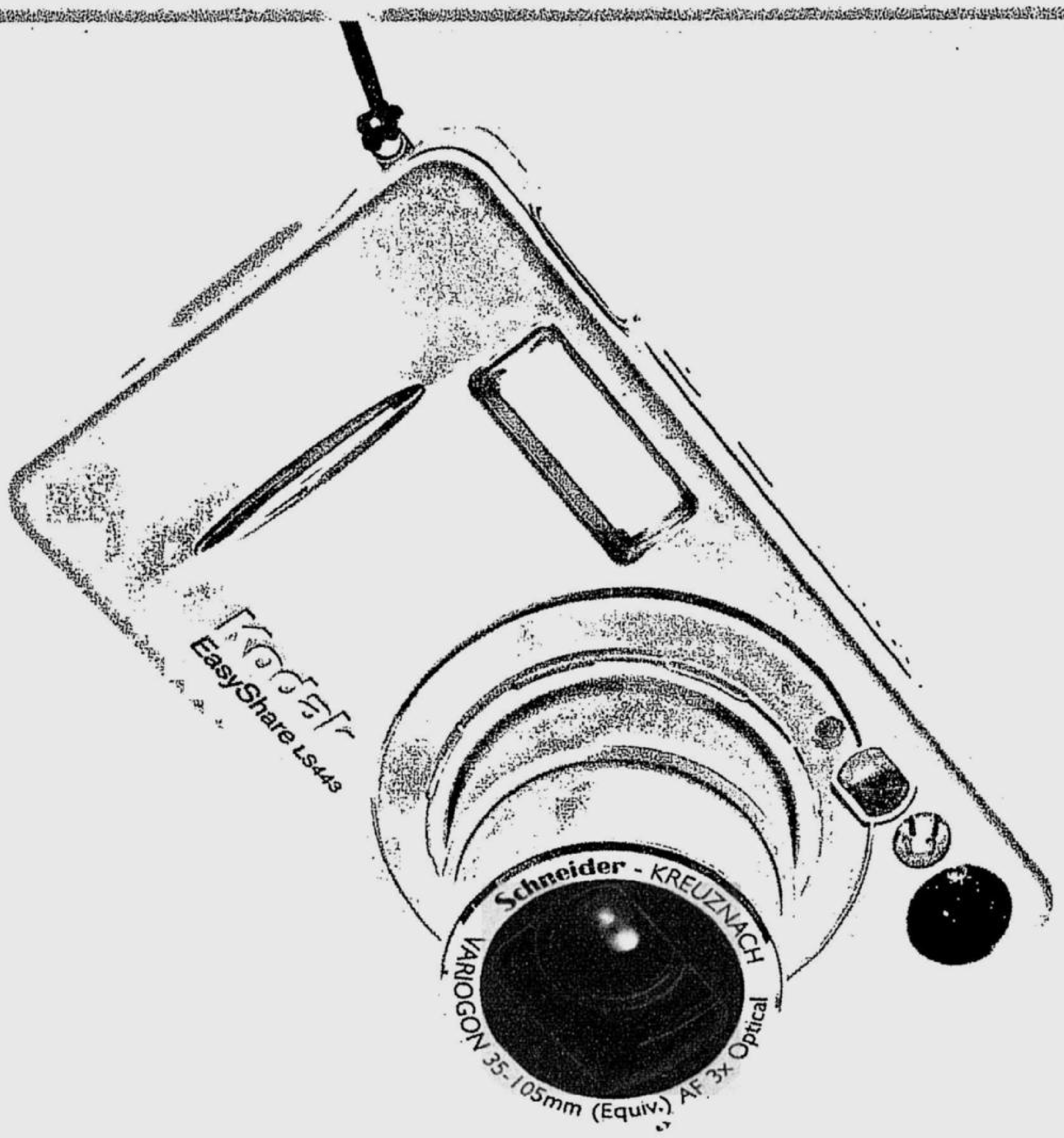
For most of us who hasn't been to the best places in our country, we'd remain clueless if George Tapan hasn't shown us its splendor and beauty through his pictures in coffee table books, travel brochures, posters and the likes. His lenses make us see the grandeur and marvel of this country.

The wealthy culture of our indigenous tribes and the plight of the marginalized people are told to us in pictures by Sonny Yabao. This photojournalist can be found in the midst of the silent struggles of Filipinos, and his pictures remind us that they need to be heeded.

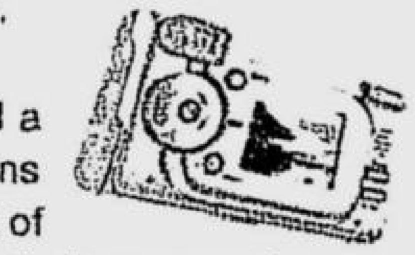
Ibarra Deri captures the simple yet poignant smiles and tears of everyday breathing. He is currently the president of the Society of Portrait photographers in the Philippines. His skills were earned with lots of errors, blood, and sweat, making you identify with the picture he both shoots and portrays.

The Magnificent 8 are CANON CAMERA users. Their heart and passion cannot be belittled by using a medium which can't deliver the best. The pictures may be the people's only way of knowing or feeling. An artist knows that. Magnificent 8 uses Canon cameras resulting to pictures that change the things in us, perhaps even the world around us. That is what being magnificent is all about.

Kodak EasyShare LS443 zoom digital camera



It's not every digital camera that has a **Schneider-Kreuznach Variogon lens.** In fact, the EasyShare LS443 is the only one. That means it's the only one that can deliver the crisp, sharp pictures that have built Schneider's worldwide reputation.



Of course, we figured a professional quality lens belongs on a camera of similar excellence. That's the reason the new LS443 features **4.0 megapixels.** 10x zoom (3x optical, 3.3x advanced digital). **Kodak Color Science.** A special-edition dock for one-touch picture transfer and quick battery recharging. And an indoor/outdoor display you can view anywhere, even in bright sunshine.

All of which makes for an easy choice. The new EasyShare LS443. From Kodak, of course.

For more information, please call **1-800-1888-9600** (toll free hotline) or **visit www.kodak.com/go/ls443.**

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Kodak Unveils Flagship 4.0 Megapixel Digital Camera with New Schneider Professional-Quality Lens

GONE are the days when style had to be compromised for form and function when purchasing a digital camera. Kodak's new LS443 Zoom Digital Camera, the flagship model of Kodak's EasyShare portfolio, combines functionality with sleek, ultra-stylish design, a professional quality lens and 4.0 Megapixel (MP) resolution.

The combination of a new 1.8" indoor/outdoor LCD screen, MultiScene modes (close-up, landscape, sport, night and movie), a choice of colour modes for differing photo situations and the ability to film continuous video (with audio capture and built in speaker), makes this camera ideal for the active, fast paced user of today.

Kodak has teamed up with Schneider-Kreuznach, the German producer of the world's highest-quality professional lenses and a leader in lens technology and design for 89 years. Together, the companies developed the professional-quality Schneider-Kreuznach Variogon lens used by the LS443. The precision engineered 3X optical lens, coupled with Kodak's proprietary colour science technology, ensures LS443 camera users get stunning pictures every time.

"In keeping with the company's commitment to digital image quality, the LS443 is the first Kodak digital camera to utilize the new Schneider-Kreuznach Variogon lens, a feature that delivers professional-level sharpness and picture quality on a consumer digital camera," said Pierre Schaeffer, chief marketing officer and vice president of Kodak's Digital & Applied Imaging division. "Though the lens is of professional quality, users will still enjoy the intelligent simplicity of an EasyShare digital camera. The LS443 is 'the' digital camera to own, combining ease of use, high style, quality prints – a complete solution at a great price."

The LS443 is the latest 'style' addition to Kodak's award-winning EasyShare digital photography system, the recognized industry benchmark for ease-of-use in consumer digital photography. It builds on the successful release of Kodak's first style camera – the LS420 – in May 2002.

In addition to the Kodak EasyShare software, which simplifies editing, organizing, emailing and printing, the LS443 comes with a new special edition dock. The tech-savvy user will enjoy the speed and difference Kodak One Touch™ technology makes. The complete package is available with a suggested retail price of P31,500.

The LS443 delivers crispness and unmatched colour in every shot. The powerful 10X zoom capability - combining the Schneider 3X optical unit with Kodak's proprietary 3.3X Advanced Digital Zoom - allows users to take impeccably crisp close-ups. In addition, the camera's built-in proprietary Kodak colour science, the result of decades of Kodak research and development, ensures unsurpassed colour accuracy in every picture.

Additional features include:

- The recently introduced 1.8" Indoor/Outdoor LCD screen, allowing users to easily preview and review their shots even in direct sunlight. The screen's state-of-the-art non-glare coating significantly reduces the sun's glare on its surface, while maintaining exceptional viewing quality.
- An on-camera "Share" button makes printing, e-mailing and organizing a snap.
- A special edition dock for one-touch picture transfer and fast recharging of the high performance Li-Ion rechargeable battery, ensuring that the camera is always ready to shoot, capture and print at the touch of a button.
- A feature dial is used to access five scene modes — close-up, landscape, sport, night and movie — giving consumers the controls to take the perfect picture in any situation.
- Other creative controls include a menu of three colour modes; a burst mode for high - speed sequence shooting; advanced auto focus options for low light and off -center subjects.
- The LS443 even captures life in motion with a continuous video and playback option with built in speaker.

Easily accessed features on the LS443 guide consumers effortlessly from photo capture and sharing through printing. The LS443's automatic picture rotation feature ensures that pictures always appear right side up on the camera, computer or TV. With the special 'camera always ready' feature, consumers can snap a picture even when the camera is not in the 'capture' setting. The LS443 also comes with 16MB of internal memory, which means consumers don't even need a memory card to start shooting right away. A MultiMediaCard or Secure Digital memory card inserted into the camera's expansion slot increases picture-taking capacity.

As with all of the digital cameras in the Kodak EasyShare portfolio, the LS443 is packed with the best image technology and built with ease and simplicity in mind so that picture takers are just one step from stunning photo prints. Using the Kodak EasyShare software, consumers have even more options to help them print, share, edit and organize their pictures. The EasyShare system, including the EasyShare software, makes getting prints virtually effortless, giving consumers the option to print at home using Kodak's proprietary One Touch to Better Pictures feature with Kodak's extensive line of inkjet paper products; from home by uploading to either the EasyShare print service or another online photofinisher; in or at retail using Kodak digitally-enabled kiosks or over the counter.

Eastman Kodak Company and Infoimaging

Kodak is the leader in helping people take, share, enhance, preserve, print and enjoy pictures – for memories, for information, for entertainment. The company is a major participant in "infoimaging" – a US$ 385 billion industry composed of devices (digital cameras and PDAs), infrastructure (online networks and delivery systems for images) and services & media (software, film and paper enabling people to access, analyze and print images). Kodak harnesses its technology, market reach and a host of industry partnerships to provide innovative products and services for customers who need the information-rich content that images contain. The company, with sales last year of US$13.2 billion, is organized into four major businesses: Photography, providing consumers, professionals and cinematographers with digital and traditional products and services; Commercial Imaging, offering image capture, output and storage products and services to businesses and government; Components, delivering flat-panel displays, optics and sensors to original equipment manufacturers; and Health, supplying the healthcare industry with traditional and digital image capture and output products and services.

(Kodak and EasyShare are trademarks of Eastman Kodak Company.)

Editor's Note: For additional information about Kodak, visit our Web site at www.kodak.com.

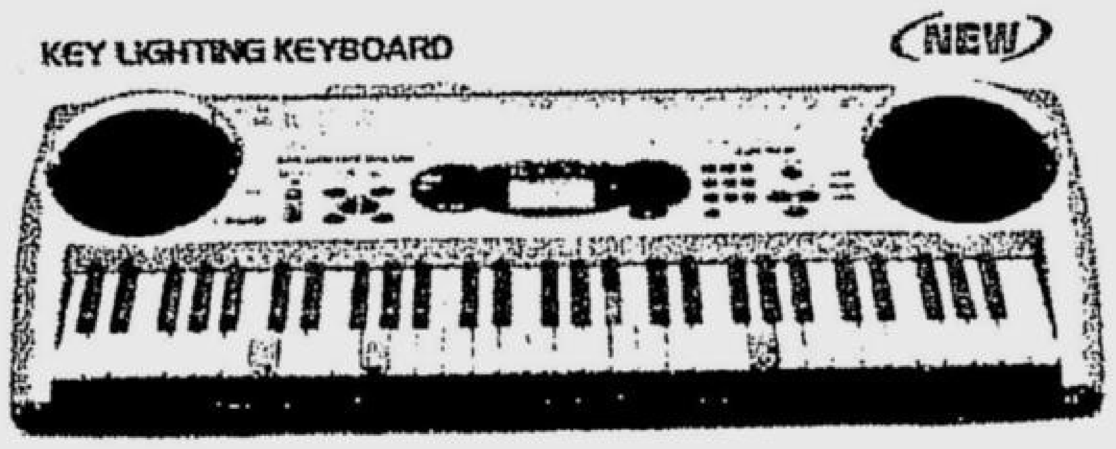
The Sound of Music, the Music of Love

THE sound of a heart in love is a sound of sweet music. Every word spoken is a lyrical expression; every sound of a heart beating is a musical celebration. Music and love comes naturally together, a union that transcends every possible barrier.

For music, like love, is a universal language. It is a language every heart understands.

Celebrate music and love with **CASIO** and its wide array of top of the line and affordable musical keyboards - from the standard size keyboards, high-grade keyboards, digital piano, and key-lighting keyboards. Casio makes music a natural for every body and musical instruments easily within the reach of people everywhere.

The Casio keyboards are designed to discover, develop, and nurture every body's love for music. The Key Lighting Keyboard models are specially designed for beginners and those with no music background. The Key Lighting System teaches the notes you need to play while equipped with built-in tunes that range from pop to classics.



The newest and latest **Casio Key Lighting Keyboard,** the **LK-43** features the key lighting system, 61-full size keys with touch response, layer/split. 100 song bank tunes, song bank controller, song memory, and voice fingering guide. With The LK-43 Key Lighting Keyboard, learning the joy of music becomes easy and captivating.

Anybody who wants to play the Casio keyboard just need to master the timing of the melody note, master the correct melody keys, and play at normal speed.

What a better way to express love than through the beautiful sound of music you play with a Casio keyboard, while the sweet voice of your loved one rendering the most unforgettable song in your life. *Absolutely enchanting!*

As an added treat to the celebration of music and love, the **Casio Music Circle** offers a center for those who want to learn, develop, and enhance more their musical passion and ability. Located at the 2nd level of City Center Building, 328 Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila (Tel. No. 705-1519), the Casio Music Circle is open to every people at all age level. It has a team of professional music teachers who aspire to share their love of music to those who are willing to learn.

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Piandre Salon recently opened its largest branch in Libis, a multi-space salon, offering its clients various rooms and spaces for beauty and wellness services. The first-ever in the Philippines, the Italian-inspired Salon has a main floor for styling and beauty, a unique color area for highlights and colors, a number of lounges for treatments, facials, reflexology, head massage, chair and body massage, as well as several private rooms for comfort and luxury.

Piandre Group of Salons are currently at Greenbelt, Greenhills, Timog, Makati, Del Monte, San Juan & Harrison Plaza.

For this Valentine Season, give the gift that is truly priceless- Beauty and Wellness Services.. *Exclusively at Piandre Salons.*

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61-C Timog Avenue, Q.C.
927-3448; 411-8728

Piandre del Monte
137 Del Monte Avenue, Q.C.
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Piandre Greenhills
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722-6614; 722-6615

Piandre San Juan (GEM)
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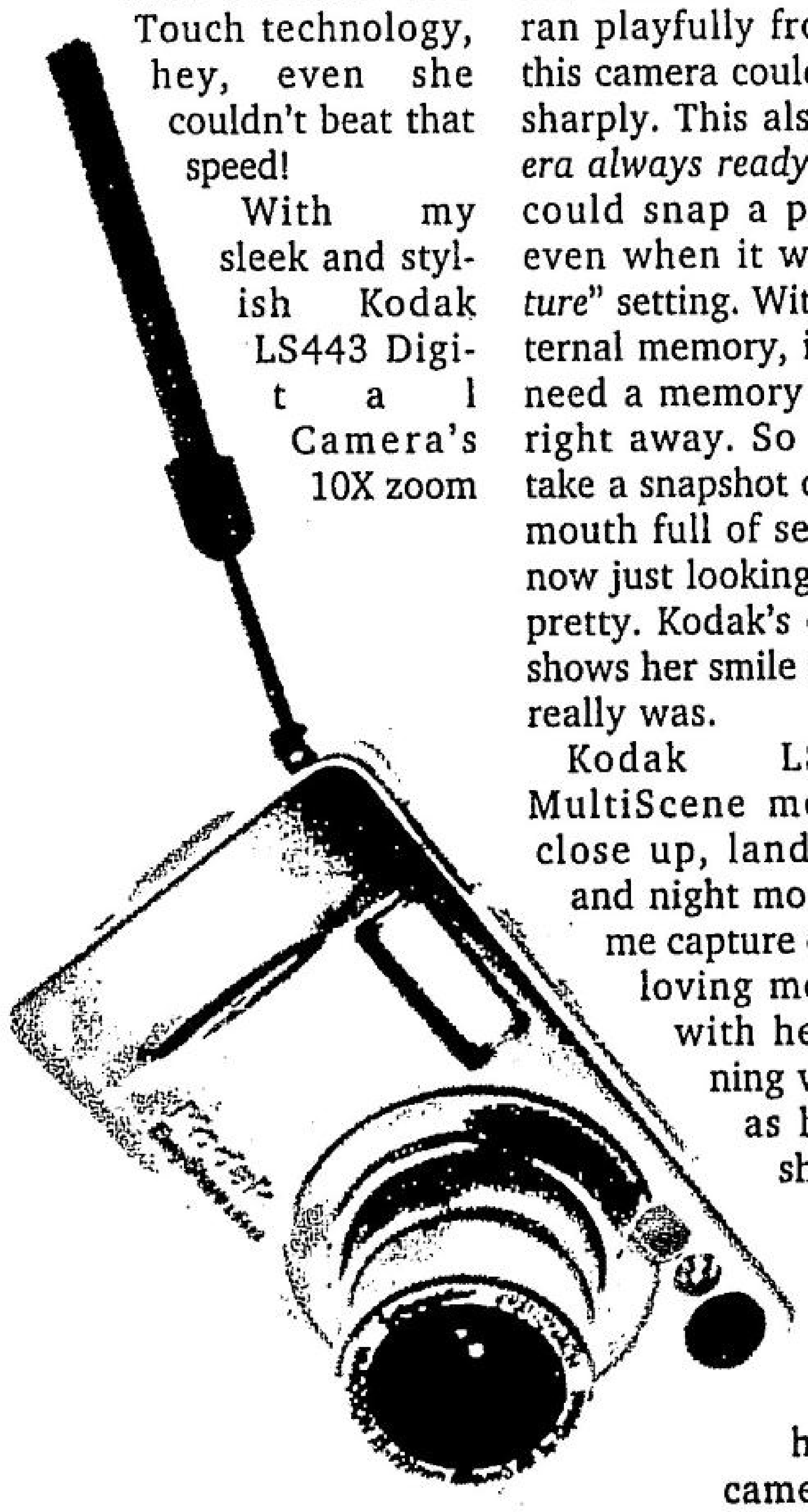
Love and Memories in Captivity



I LOOK at her pictures. I feel like I took it eons ago. She was trying to hide her face from my camera; but with Kodak's One Touch technology, hey, even she couldn't beat that speed!

With my sleek and stylish Kodak LS443 Digital Camera's 10X zoom capability (done by combining Schneider 3X optical unit with Kodak's 3.3X Advanced Digital Zoom), I was able to capture her wind-blown face when she ran playfully from me. Only this camera could capture it so sharply. This also has a "*camera always ready*" feature, so I could snap a picture of her even when it wasn't in "*capture*" setting. With its 16MB internal memory, it doesn't even need a memory card to shoot right away. So I was able to take a snapshot of her with her mouth full of seafood! I smile now just looking at it. She's so pretty. Kodak's colour science shows her smile as radiant as it really was.

Kodak LS443 has MultiScene modes such as close up, landscape, sport, and night modes; it helped me capture each and every loving moment I spent with her — she running with the sunset as her backdrop, she sleeping like a baby at night, she holding tiny flowers to her hair. The camera's ability to film continuous video (movie mode) complete with audio and built-in speakers brings me back to the exact moment she said, "Honey, don't! My hair's a mess!". But of course, no one could stop me and my Kodak from making that moment tangible. I got her.

It's all so simple. So clear. Sitting here on that beach, I stare at the 1.8" indoor/Outdoor LCD screen reviewing her shy, smiling eyes. Even the sun glare can't affect its clarity. My camera has state-of-the-art non-glare coating; and its 4.0 Megapixel resolution makes her pictures so crisp. It's so real that it seems like she's right here with me again.

This Valentines, I am back to where I last held her. She isn't here with me today, you know. She probably isn't coming back. I look back to what has been — to the moments I've captured with my Kodak LS443 — and I know I shall never forget her. I made sure I wouldn't. It's all printed in my being. Captured moments are never to be forgotten.

Cupid's Treat

Spend an evening with your love one in any of our luxurious and spacious Suites during this month of February!

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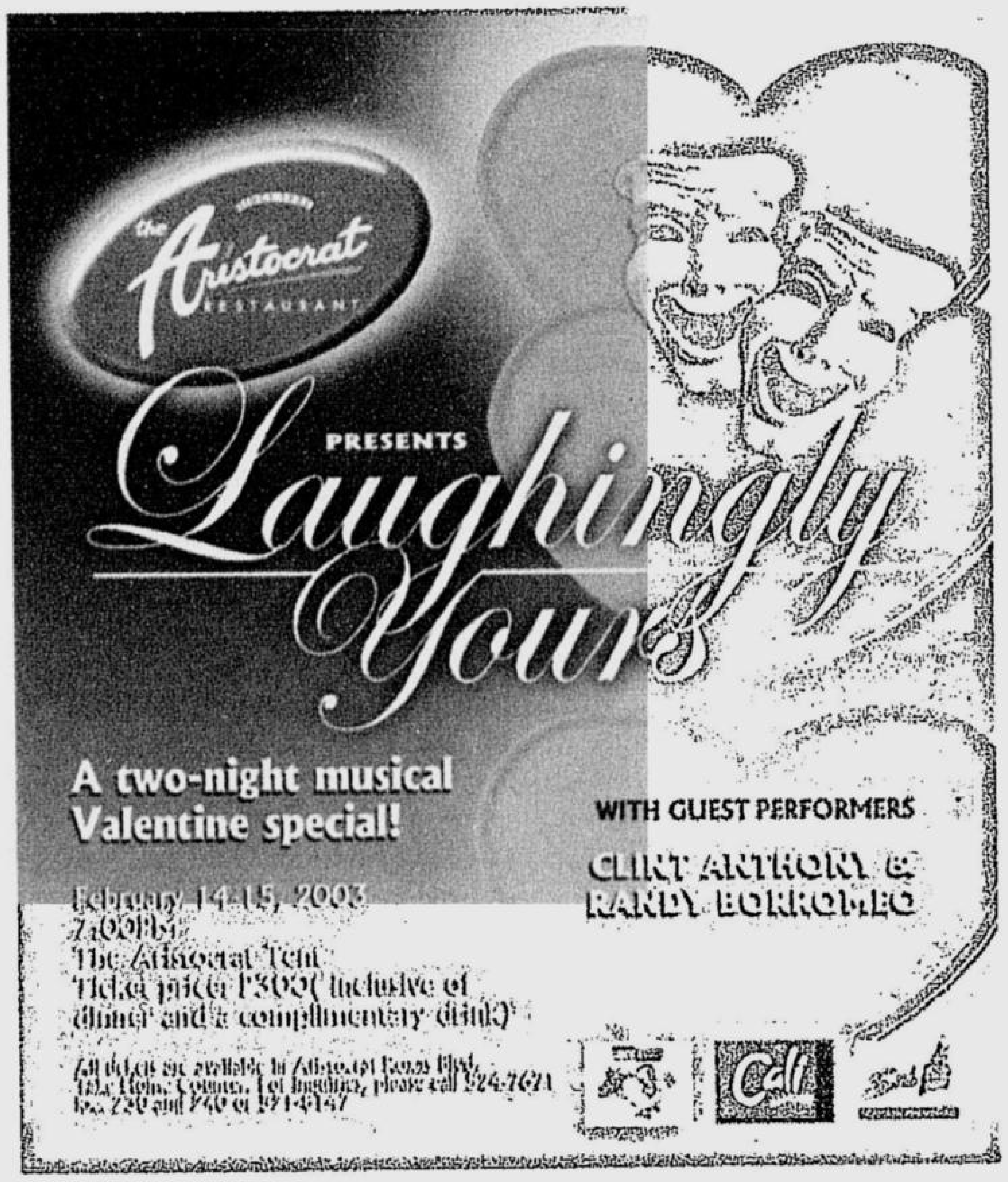

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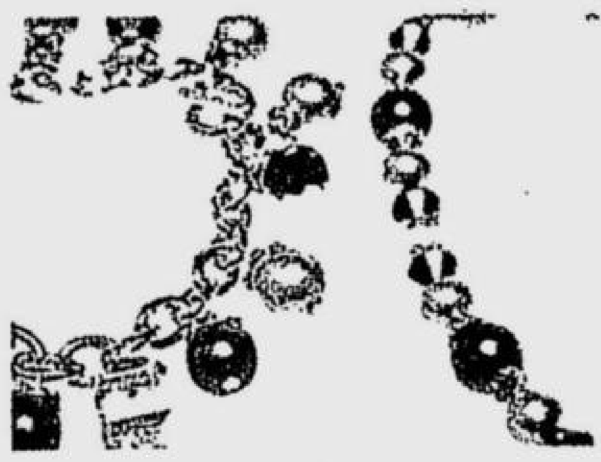
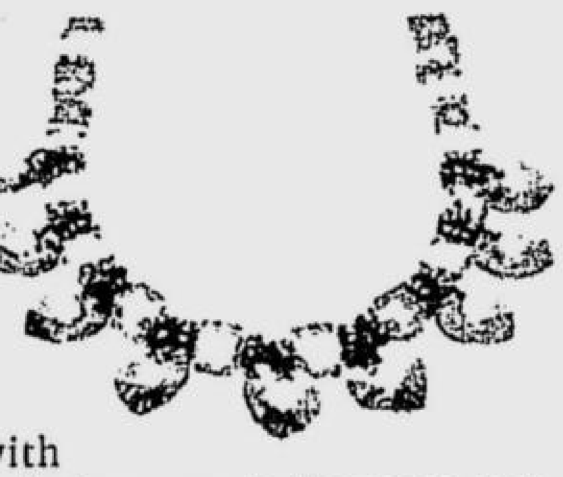
Ticket price: P300 (inclusive of dinner and a complimentary drink)

All tickets are available in Aristocrat Roxas Blvd. [illegible]. For inquiries, please call 524-7671 loc. 220 and 240 or 571-4147



IF YOU are looking for something different — something that stands out, Malu Tiongson-Ortiz's collection of one-of-a-kind accessories are definitely something you should check out. Whether you are in for a day at the office, malling with friends, partying the night away, or even going to a formal affair, her jewelry is a great accent to any outfit.

Her business started as a hobby—not hers, but a project for her daughter, Clarisse. Malu purchased a jewelry making kit for her, but discovered her talent for jewelry making. The rest is history! For almost a year now, Malu Tiongson-Ortiz has been fashioning one of a kind pieces made of semi-precious stones, glass beads and Swarovski crystals. All of the materials used in her creations are made all over the world—from Austria to Thailand. Her collection started out small, with just bracelets, but has now grown to a varied selection of gorgeous necklaces, pendants, bracelets and earrings.



Each piece is crafted uniquely, yet with a classic touch of elegance to liven up any outfit. Her accessories are wearable, feminine and ultimately sleek. For more information, visit her store CLARISSE bead collection at CHAPSVILLE at the ground floor of the Greenhills Theatre Mall.